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DEDICATED TO THE
CENTENNIAL OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE





1915-2015
Centennial of the
Armenian Genocide

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I Remember and Demand

Editorial Message

We (too) shall overcome

Zaven Khanjian

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 4:4

AMAA NEWS

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They were all good. Magnificent, perhaps. Be they the messengers: African American Freedom Seekers, the Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King or Lyndon Johnson or the many interpreters: Joan Baez, Mahalia Jackson, Diana Ross or Louis Armstrong. They were many and they were all good. Their struggle was universal. It could well be ours too. But those were different times and different voices. Today, the struggle is ours, the grounds universal and WE TOO SHALL OVERCOME!



The pinnacle of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide is behind us now. We worked hard and we can confidently claim a degree of reward and victory. It raised our national struggle to an unprecedented plateau of universal awareness, respect and recognition that was worthy of the cause and powerful in its impact. The inevitable and hard question to ask today is - what next? The path is still very long and thorny, the obstacles and hindrances, many. But the collective will and determination is in place and our resolute faith in our just struggle is unshakable. God is the foundation of our quest for justice and the recognition of the truth. We need not sit idle in acquiescence. The struggle continues. WE SHALL OVERCOME!

Amid the elation from the global Centennial of the Armenian Genocide commemorative events, we are warned not to fall into euphoria. The national tragedy, the blindness toward which anguishes me, is our denial of the nation's Achilles' Heel, the Syrian Armenian catastrophe. The most serious national crisis the Armenian Diaspora has ever experienced since the Genocide a century ago is a footnote in our existential reality today. Unable to comprehend the plan (and admittedly unable to change course) and its approaching consequence, we are about to lose the most firmly anchored foundation of our Diaspora existence, the closest to a lost Fatherland and an ever flowing spring of cultural, spiritual and national leadership to the Diaspora.

Western powers not only have been 'weak reeds' in the protection of Christians in the Middle East, as some suggest,

but have forged alliances that today are destructive to the Christians of the Middle East and tomorrow will regrettably fire back. None of the above has deterred the AMAA in its quest to sustain the Armenian community in Syria, move as many people as possible away from the danger zone and support the refugees in the perimeter of the crisis zone. Recurring persecution and misfortune in history has forged us to be ironclad survivors, a resilient nation that has learned to rise up from the ashes like the phoenix and survive. **WE SHALL OVERCOME!**

Despite the historically critical junctions that the nation is passing through and the unavoidably serious challenges it represents, the mission of the AMAA is in constant rotation and in full swing.

It is graduation season and a bountiful number of youth in our 23 esteemed educational institutions around the globe, having ended another year in excelling educational, spiritual and cultural settings, look for a bright future in smiling faces and hopeful outlooks.

Summer is upon us and I can hear the joyful giggle of our youth in our Sheen-Shoghig and Bedrosian summer camps in Armenia and Karabagh, at KCHAG in Lebanon, in La Source in France, and at Camp Arev and Camp Arevlek on both coasts of the continental United States. More children are introduced to the love of Christ and the word of God and experience spiritual growth at our summer camps than at any other youth gathering.

Our church and Sunday school doors are always open, where the faithful congregate in our houses of God to worship the Creator with humility, reverence and gratitude for the blessings of life and the promise of salvation.

And more places of worship are being erected. The new House of Worship in Dilijan is set to be completed in the fall of 2015 and ground breaking is in the horizon for a new Church and Community Center in Gyumri, the second largest city in Armenia and historically a monumental cultural center (more in the next AMAA News).

The heartbeat of our Day Centers loudly echoes and our kindergartens gleefully thrive. The Milk Fund pumps vital nutritional supplements to needy Armenian infants and the ever expanding Armenia Medical Mission is geared to head on yet another astonishing journey to Armenia. Our year round Child Sponsorship programs make a difference in lives, our educational scholarships set youth on the right course of life creating success opportunities and our annual internship program rewards our youth with life and career experience.

Our programs are countless and projects are many. God remains the foundation of our mission and whether it's a program or capital budget, your gifts and donations are the fuel that puts our mission in motion. We stand ready to leap forward.

Challenges remain ahead. With the grace of God and your continued support, **WE SHALL OVERCOME! □**



AMAA Welcomes Roman Catholic Pontiff's Courageous Stand on the Armenian Genocide

Fope Francis, head of the Roman Catholic Church, made history on Sunday, April 12th, by referring to the atrocities committed against Armenians by Ottoman Turkey at the dawn of the 20th century as "Genocide."

Speaking on Sunday, April 12, at the St. Peter's Basilica Mass in Rome to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the Pontiff called the crime committed against the Armenian nation in its historic ancestral home as the "first Genocide of the 20th century."

Referring to the century old immeasurable and unconscionable pain and suffering of the Armenian people, Pope Francis said "concealing or denying evil is like allowing a wound to keep bleeding without bandaging it."

The Armenian Missionary Association of America welcomes Pope Francis' moral high ground, salutes the courage of the head of the Catholic Church and prays that all efforts toward international acknowledgement and condemnation of crimes against humanity will lead the world to a safer place and mankind to a peaceful harbor.

Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, said that the organization "hopes that realization of responsibility in past and present human tragedies by world leaders will help extinguish flames of continued agony and pain and end continuing carnages around the world and in particular the intolerable anguish experienced by the various communities making up the ancient human mosaic characterizing the people of Syria."

AMAA Executive Director/CEO's Message on April 24

April 24, 2015, marks the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, planned and perpetrated by the Ottoman Turks, against our people, under the cover of World War I.

Since God our Lord led Noah's ark to safety many, many centuries ago, "...and the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat," (Genesis 8, 4), our people toiled the land, tilled it with sweat and blood, created art and music, song and dance, conceived a genius who gifted the nation its unique identity, and went on to build a remarkable and glowing civilization overcoming persecution and occupation.

The 20th century begot the nation a rendezvous with evil, with the cruel and brutal sickling of an indigenous people peacefully residing in an over four millennium homeland. The abominable fate of a million and a half innocent victims, uprooted from an ancestral home and led to their extinction by the sword, starvation, sickness and the desert sand is beyond any human imagination.

The most tormenting subject on my psyche, the inner turmoil and agony of my mind, caused by the immeasurable and unconscionable pain and suffering of my forebears was caused by a heinous cabal, unabashedly recognized as the state government of Ottoman Turkey, at the turn of the 20th century.

Furthermore, our collective reckoning of the unconscionable thousands who were forced and are still condemned into a society and faith foreign to their indigenous forebears, does not just fit the Centennial of the Genocide, but asserts the undeniable reality of a Century of Genocide.

Today, as we jubilantly praise God and hail the resurrection of the nation from the ashes of the heinous crime against humanity, we bow to the memory of the victims who perished for anchoring their existence in their ethnicity and Christian faith. We also vow to overcome evil with more song and dance, hope and prayer, smile and joy, all for the Glory of God, who remained loyal to His Covenant not to forsake us. "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 12:5) □

From Times Square in New York City on April 26, 2015

A few drops of tears, a few vertical fists, a few words of prayer and a silent dialogue with ancestors silenced, sickled, put to the sword, drowned, burned, crushed but never vanished. Their spirit is hovering today over the heads of millions of children and grandchildren of survivors all over the globe who march for Truth and Justice and cry out; they attempted but we survived!

Zaven Khanjian
AMAA Executive Director/CEO



Worship Concerts

In Commemoration of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide

Worship Concerts in Commemoration of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide were sponsored by the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA), in conjunction with the Armenian Brotherhood, Brethren and Nazarene Churches, and, with the cooperation and help of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). More than 2,300 people attended the two commemoration worship concerts.

The first concert was held on Saturday, April 25 at the First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena, CA, with the attendance of local pastors. Pastor Mano Agulian, Pastor of the Armenian Christian Outreach of Pasadena Nazarene Church, welcomed the congregation and Rev. Dr. Ron Tovmassian, AEUNA Moderator, shared the purpose of our gathering. Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian delivered the opening words and prayer. Rev. Paul Doctorian, Pastor of the Pasadena Armenian Nazarene Church and Rev. Calvin Sagherian, Pastor of the Armenian Brotherhood Church, participated with heartfelt messages. Rev. Kevork Terian, Pastor of the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church, gave the Benediction. The Armenian Missionary Association of America was represented by Levon Filian, West Coast Executive Director.

On Saturday, May 2, the second commemoration concert was held at the Glendale Presbyterian Church. Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian, Acting Minister to the AEUNA, welcomed everyone and shared the message of the AEUNA Moderator, Rev. Dr. Ron Tovmassian. Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian opened with a prayer and powerful messages were delivered by Rev. Dikran Shanlian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church, and Rev. Daniel Albarian, Pastor of the Christian Outreach for Armenians Church.

New Hope Singers and the joint youth choir, under the leadership of Rev. Berdj Djambazian and musical direction of Albert Bulbulyan, performed powerfully and beautifully the inspirational songs of Hagop Jambazian. His compositions, besides many worship songs, include works such as Christ's Passion, the Armenian Genocide Requiem, the Darfur Genocide Requiem, a Christmas Oratorio and a Resurrection Oratorio.

The program was divided into three parts: Crucifixion, Salvation and Praise. All songs were subtitled in English and enhanced with pictures shown on a large screen.

The soloists Vahagn Hovents, Lucine Fyelon, Arpy Aintablian, and Raffi Kerbabian, with their God-given talents and voices, under the musical direction of Albert Bulbulyan, technical direction of Nazo Hadidian and the participation of the joint youth choir, proclaimed powerfully and wholeheartedly the good news of Jesus as Lord and Savior.

At the end of each concert, Rev. Berdj Djambazian shared from archival resources the martyrdom of 37 Armenian Evangelical Pastors, who were heading to the Evangelical Convention in Adana in 1909. He encouraged everyone to become the torchbearers of our Jesus-centered martyrs who were faithful until death to proclaim the good news that "We know that our Redeemer lives...because He lives we shall live also." The unprecedented commemoration worship concerts revived in us, as evangelicals, to become faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ in times like these. □



The soloists. L to R: Vahagn Hovents, Lucine Fyelon, Arpy Aintablian and Raffi Kerbabian.



Armenian Genocide Memorial Unveiling Ceremony

Pasadena, CA

On April 18, over 1,500 people were in attendance to witness and participate in the unveiling of the Armenian Genocide Memorial at the Pasadena Memorial Park in Pasadena, CA.

Representatives from the State of California, the County of Los Angeles and several city officials came to pay tribute to the 1.5 million Armenians who fell victim to the first Genocide of the 20th century. There was indeed a sense of unity and solidarity with representation from all Armenian religious, political, cultural and educational organizations. Among the guests were Drs. Nazareth and Ani Darakjian from the AMAA, and Rev. Joseph Matossian, representing the AEUNA.

Master of Ceremonies David Gevorkian welcomed the guests. The Posting of Colors was done by the AGBU and Homenetmen Scouts and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Undersheriff Bernard Melekian. The Armenian and American National Anthems

were sung by Lara Gharibian and Garo Sulahian respectively and the invocation was given by the Diocesan, Prelacy and clergy from all denominations.

Special legacy appreciation and words of support were offered by the Honorable William Bogaard, Mayor of Pasadena, and the Honorable Michael Antonovich, LA County Board Supervisor. The cultural program included recitations and songs by the AGBU Manoukian, Hovsepian, and Sahag Mesrob School students.

The Keynote address in English was given by Raffi Hamparian, ANCA National Board member, who elaborated on the solidarity of the Armenian people, and the perseverance of all Armenians worldwide to bring awareness of what happened, demanding justice and retribution.

The Armenian message was delivered by Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, who focused on the legacy of political and missionary men and women who courageously cried for jus-



tice and intervention. He thanked the men and women who came to the rescue of the Armenian people by opening hospitals, orphanages and schools.

The unveiling of the monument was done by the clergy and The Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial Committee (PAGMC) Board members. The Ceremony was concluded by singing the Lord's Prayer, Hayr Mer. □

The official Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, organized by the United Armenian Council for the Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide - Los Angeles, was held on April 25, 2015 at the Armenian Genocide Monument in Montebello, CA. Among many clergymen and dignitaries from the Armenian Evangelical Community present were: Rev. Dr. Varkess Kassouni, Rev. Joseph Matossian, Rev. Dikran Shanlian and Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director. One of the keynote speakers was Rev. Christine Chakoyan from Chicago, IL, the Senior Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, who was instrumental, together with Rev. Dr. Kassouni, in passing the Armenian Genocide Resolution by the Presbyterian Church, USA,



Launching of the English Translation of Hrant Guzelian's Book The Youth Home of Istanbul: A Story of the Remnants' Homecoming

By Elise Kalfayan

The *Youth Home of Istanbul: A Story of the Remnants' Homecoming* release in English on the cusp of the Armenian Genocide Centennial fittingly honors author Hrant Guzelian's battle against the last stages of Genocide. Guzelian rescued hundreds of Armenian youth decades after the Genocide, including a young protégé Hrant Dink, who became a fearless journalist in Turkey.

The book's publication by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) was made possible by a donation from Dr. H. Steven and Julie Aharonian and Dr. Vicken and Sossy Aharonian, in loving memory of their father Rev. Dr. Hovhannes Aharonian, who was a staunch supporter of Hrant Guzelian's mission and Godfather to the name "Youth Home of Istanbul."

"Reading this book in 2007, I was convinced that there was an obligation to share it beyond an Armenian readership," said Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA. "Scholars and historians should read Guzelian's eye-witness account of cultural destruction in the countryside of Western Armenia, encounters with inhumane Turkish officials bent on denial and oppression, and conviction and action in countering an existential threat."

The Joint Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee of the AMAA and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America launched the English translation of the book in a program attended by close to 200 people, held on April 7, at The Armenian Society of Los Angeles. Hasmig Baran, Ed.D., served as the Mistress of Ceremonies.

The program's speakers stressed three themes: ACT, PACT, and IMPACT. ACT, covered by Edwin Minassian, Esq., Chair of the Istanbul Armenians Board of Trustees and Executive Board Member of the Armenian Bar Association, set the scene for Guzelian's work. Turkey in the 1940s and 50s oppressed minorities with high



The speakers: L to R: Edwin Minassian, Esq., Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian and Zaven Khanjian.

taxes, property seizures, and police state surveillance. "Right after pogroms targeting Armenians and Greeks in the mid-50s, Guzelian launched his mission, despite the environment. He had resolve, and strong faith that his mission was essential. He knew that this was an existential struggle." Mr. Minassian noted, "There's a lot in the book about how Guzelian dealt with his arrest in 1980, and about Hrant Dink."

PACT, explained by Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian, AEUNA Representative of the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund and Member of the AEUNA Armenian Heritage Committee, described an interaction between two parties. "Hrant Guzelian entered a pact of grace with God. He knew he was the weaker party, and faith is the most elemental aspect of this kind of pact. Guzelian countered the 'Turkification' of Armenian youth; he was fighting against the forcible transfer of children away from their ethnic identity [defined in Article 2 of the Geneva Convention as a genocidal act]. He went to search for the lost and the hopeless, paralleling the gospel story."

Rev. Ekmekjian told the audience that his short encounter with Guzelian, in Yere-

van in 2006, had "a magnificent psychological and emotional impact on me. Even before my encounter with him, my reading of his book in Armenian was a blessing, and I had encountered many people who had been blessed and served by his ministry."

Mr. Khanjian summarized Guzelian's IMPACT. He recited a passage in the memoir:

"The state has been unfair, evil, oppressive, unfeeling and biased. Envyng our mores, instead of following with virtuous jealousy, learning and attaining high level, the Turk wanted to annihilate us, usurping, appropriating, insulting, and depriving us of our most basic rights, the language, the faith, the culture...I thought, what can I do in some measure to do my share and be useful to the remnants of my nation?"

"Useful, he was!" said Mr. Khanjian. "The impact this man had was tremendous, not only on the life of a few thousand Armenian youngsters who passed through the gates of The Youth Home of Istanbul, but on Turkish society and politics, the reverberations of which will continue for times unknown." Mr. Khanjian noted that Guzelian took Hrant Dink, whose parents were divorced and whose father's

whereabouts were unknown, into the Gedik Pasha Armenian Evangelical School's Youth Home of Istanbul at the age of seven. For twenty years, 1961-1981, Dink was under the patronage of Guzelian, and for five additional years, he carried the torch of the church and the mission. Dink became editor-in-chief of the bilingual Turkish-Armenian newspaper *Agos*; advocated for human and minority rights in Turkey; and criticized Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide. His assassination in 2007 in Istanbul outraged many Turkish citizens, caused widespread protests, and brought worldwide attention to continuing persecution of minorities in Turkey.

Of the book, Mr. Khanjian noted, "Narrated by Guzelian in simple language and a humble Christian spirit, it is not literary nor is it written in glowing style." These limitations are more than balanced out by the power of Guzelian's memories. He captures the Catch-22 tenor of confrontations with intolerant officials, inspires the reader with frequent references to scripture as his primary guide to action, and shows great insight on ways to "fly under the radar" in a hostile political environment.

The AMAA was a long-standing supporter of The Youth Home of Istanbul, and

in the book Guzelian credits its leaders, as well as leaders of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, for their faithful and generous support of the Home and of the summer camp he established in Tuzla.

The Joint Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee celebrates the life and work of a worthy, unsung Armenian Evangelical hero with the publication of this book in English and has succeeded in bringing the story of his fight against the genocidal crimes of Turkey to the attention of the world. □

Dr. Hasmig Baran, Mistress of Ceremonies.



AMAA Executive Director/CEO Presents Lecture on Hrant Dink

St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church in Wynnwood, PA invited Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, to present the final program in their Lenten series on March 27.

Following an evening of prayer service in the sanctuary, an enthusiastic crowd from the Philadelphia area Armenian churches gathered around tables in Hayatian Hall to hear Mr. Khanjian present a multi-media talk on Hrant Dink. Through quotes, audio recordings, and documentary films, Mr. Khanjian presented not only Mr. Dink's life, but also his ideals and aspirations for Turkey and for Armenians as part and parcel of their ancestral lands. As Mr. Khanjian portrayed the story, Mr. Dink's activism drew the admiration as well as the approbation of many around

the world. It was also a source of personal anguish, as Mr. Dink directly faced the injustice of his country. Eventually he was executed for his willingness to stand up to the institutionalized chauvinism of the state.

But messages of faith and hope also shone through, as the audience heard tapes of Mr. Dink's voice expressing his gratitude for being cared for by loving Armenian Christians in his native land and overseas. The host Pastor, the Very Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgolian, added his words of gratitude to Mr. Khanjian, and related his own recollection of meeting Hrant Dink



L to R: Very Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgolian, Zaven Khanjian, and Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian.

several months before his assassination. The appreciative audience warmly applauded Mr. Khanjian for his thorough, thought-provoking and challenging presentation. □

On March 12, 2015, the leadership of the Cooperative Committee on Armenian Mission of the Wider Church Ministries (WCM) of the United Church of Christ (UCC) and the Armenian Missionary Association of America met at the headquarters of the UCC in Cleveland, Ohio, to spend time in prayer, fellowship and to exchange success stories and challenges of participating organizations.

Participating in the meeting from the WCM were Rev. Dr. James Moos, Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries (UCC), Ann Kiernozek, Controller and Treasurer, WCM/UCC, and Peter Makari, Executive, Middle East and Europe, Global Ministries, and from the AMAA Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO and Levon Filian, West Coast Executive Director.

We take this opportunity to thank the WCM for their continued support of the Armenians from 1890s to present and their support of human rights causes, including the passage of a resolution presented the UCC for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and calling on the US and Turkish governments to recognize it as well.

Below we share with our readers the proposed resolution in its entirety.

Commemorating 100 Years since the Armenian Genocide

A Resolution of Witness Submitted by Wider Church Ministries

(A Covenanted Ministry of the United Church of Christ)

October, 2014

Summary: 2015 marks the 100-year anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Anatolia (modern-day Turkey). With this resolution, the United Church of Christ, which has active current relationships with the Armenian community, seeks to mark this anniversary by reiterating its acknowledgement of the events and reasserting its concern for people and communities that are victims of violence, particularly when based on race, ethnicity, creed, or any other aspect of identity.

Biblical, Theological, and Historical Grounding:

Matthew 2:16-18 describes the massacre of all the first born males, ordered by Herod, after the Magi ignored his direction to report to him about the place of Jesus' birth: *When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men,* he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.* Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'*

Rachel's weeping and lamentation was a recognition that her children had perished, and those whom Herod ordered killed would never have the chance to thrive. Even so, Jesus "came that they have life, and have it abundantly," with justice and with peace.

The victimization of innocents by those in power was not new in the 20th century; indeed history is replete with such tragedy. In the context of World War I, 1.5 million Armenians, and people of other ethnic and religious backgrounds, were killed, and another million were displaced, during the "deportations" that the Ottoman army carried out following arrests on April 24, 1915 of Armenian intellectual leaders in Constantinople. These deportations and massacres lasted eight years, from 1915 to 1923. Raphael Lemkin, a Jewish man who introduced the term "genocide" in his 1944 book, *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*, had in mind the tragedy that befell the Armenians in 1915 and following, as well as the Holocaust of Jews in Europe in the 1930s and 1940s.

Missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions—a predecessor body of Wider Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ—already working primarily among the Armenian community in Anatolia

for a century, witnessed, documented, and advocated for an end to the massacres with local and international officials. They also raised funds for relief of those who were suffering, and who managed to resettle, many in northern Syria.

Mutual Accountability: Today, the UCC, with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through Global Ministries, continues to nurture relationships with Armenian Christians in the Middle East, North America, and elsewhere. In 1997, the General Synod affirmed the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East as "a partner in mission." In addition, Wider Church Ministries participates with members from the Armenian Missionary Association of America in a Cooperative Committee on Armenian Missions, which was established in 1927. Relationships exist and have been drawn upon for consultation in preparation for this resolution. Recognition of the Genocide on this occasion is a significant affirmation of a shared history. Adoption of this resolution would serve as a tangible expression of solidarity with our partners, demonstrate our participation with them in the commemoration, and provide direction for advocacy.

Institutional Capacity: In 1983, the UCC's Executive Council "extend[ed] to the Armenian people, and in particular the Armenian congregations and members of the United Church of Christ, deep sympathy and understanding in regard to the genocidal persecution experienced by this people in the early decades of this century. And further, the Executive Council [sought] positive steps towards justice in the historical account and towards peace



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

and reconciliation in this matter." Such efforts will be bolstered by a Synod resolution.

The implementation of this resolution will not require additional financial or staff support. The resolution will, however, bolster work currently being done with Armenian partners.

Probability of Influencing Social Change: A Resolution of Witness by General Synod on this occasion will be a significant message of support and solidarity to those who persevere in their quest for justice regarding the Armenian Genocide. It will also provide a basis for advocacy with the US government to recognize the Genocide.

Text of the Motion:

Whereas, 2015 marks the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Anatolia (modern-day Turkey) in the Ottoman Empire, during which 1.5 million Armenians were killed and more than 1 million displaced between 1915 and 1923;

Whereas, surviving Armenians and their descendants who are still impacted by memory and consequences of the events, and many others, continue to seek recognition of the Genocide by Turkey, the US, and other governments of the world as a form of affirmation, of acknowledgement of truth, and of historical justice, asserting that time alone is not a remedy;

Whereas, missionaries of our church witnessed, documented, and advocated for an end to the massacres with local and international officials, and the United Church of Christ continues to maintain close relationships with Armenians ecumenically and globally, most particularly with the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East and the Armenian Missionary Association of America—relationships that have had mutual impact among Armenians and among members of our church;

THEREFORE Be it resolved, that the Thirtieth General Synod mark the occasion of the centennial commemoration of the Armenian Genocide with lament for the lives that were lost, and for the lack of recognition by governments of the world, most notably Turkey and the US, of the historical event of the Genocide;

Be it further resolved, that the United Church of Christ gives thanks for the faithful witness and presence of the Armenian Christian community, and offers prayers for its continued strength particularly as it is affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria, where many Genocide survivors resettled;

Finally, be it resolved that the United Church of Christ reiterates its abhorrence when peoples and communities are made victims of violence, particularly when based on race, ethnicity, creed, or any other aspect of identity. Taken to the ultimate manifestation, such victimization constitutes genocide, a crime that should be prevented, halted, recognized, and acknowledged, in order to protect the communities, and offer recognition of the injustice it represents.

The funding for the implementation of the Resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body. □



Meeting with the leadership of the Cooperative Committee on Armenian Missions in Cleveland, Ohio. Pictured L to R: Peter Makari, Executive, Middle East and Europe, Global Ministries, Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, Ann Kiernozeck, Controller and Treasurer, WCM/UCC, Rev. Dr. James Moos, Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries (UCC), and Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO.

Communiqué From AMAA Executive Director/CEO

The AMAA has a strong commitment to transparency, a strong sense of responsibility and a tradition of prudent management of all entrusted funds. Recently an internal review and investigation of internal records revealed fraudulent activity and misappropriation of funds by a former employee. Law enforcement authorities were quickly notified, who after a diligent and efficient investigation, arrested the former employee. We are committed to cooperate with law enforcement in the prosecution of this matter and will pursue all available avenues for the recovery of misappropriated funds.

In the meantime, we have enacted several internal control measures to avoid any repetition of similar incidents in the future. Working with our auditors, we will continue to examine our operations to ensure integrity in every aspect of our financial transactions.

It is management's utmost responsibility to protect the long standing reputation of the Armenian Missionary Association of America and ensure that every dollar is used for the donors' desired purposes. We shall spare no effort to ensure that the AMAA lives up to its reputation.

Our firm determination and pledge to our esteemed donors is that the investigation will vigorously continue until all pertinent facts are uncovered and that all donor wishes are prudently met and honored.

As always, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and prayers.

Sincerely,
Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO

AMA-Armenia Commemorates Centennial of the Armenian Genocide



Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School Students

AMA-Armenia was deeply involved in the recent commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

On April 24, the staff of AMAA-Armenia and the Evangelical Church of Armenia, as well as AMAA's guests from the Diaspora, who were in Armenia to participate in the commemorations of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide, visited the Memorial at Dzidzernagapert and paid tribute to all the victims of the Armenian Genocide (See cover photos).

On April 28, more than 1,200 Armenians filled the National Academic Theater of Yerevan to enjoy a program entitled "Our Light, Our Hope." The program, which was organized and sponsored by the AMAA, covered Armenia's history before the Genocide, the years of the Genocide and the rebirth of the Armenian Nation.

On April 29 and 30, the "Hayasa" theatrical group of AMAA-Armenia presented a play on the life and the trial of Soghomon Tehlirian, the man who assassinated Talaat Pasha in Berlin in 1921. Over 600 people attended the play which was written by Berdj Zeituntsian and directed by Nune Abrahamian.

The AMAA, in collaboration with World Vision, Shen, COAF, FAR and Heifer, has developed a three year plan to help the Martuni village. Each of these organizations will contribute to the development and growth of the village in the fields of education, youth development, health and economic growth. The Martuni village was founded in 1921 in the North Eastern region of Gegharkunik to house the Genocide survivors. □



Representatives of AMAA, World Vision, Shen, COAF, FAR and Heifer at a Conference for the development and growth of the Martuni village.



The "Hayasa" theatrical group.



Our Light, Our Hope Concert in Yerevan



Dr. Nazareth Darakjian greets the audience during the "Hayasa" theatrical group's play.



"Hayasa" theatrical group's play on the life and trial of Soghomon Tehlirian.



Pan Armenian Centennial commemorations on April 24, 2015 at the burned down Armenian Evangelical Church in Kessab

Nothing will deter us from our will to respect the memory of our martyred victims and continue our path toward the realization of justice.



AMAA Addresses Turkish Leaders Requesting Intervention at CAMP ARMEN near Istanbul

In response to the recent news of the partial demolition of CAMP ARMEN in the Tuzla District near Istanbul, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has written to the President, Prime Minister and the United States Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey asking for their intervention and support.

During the partial demolition of the Camp in early May, a group of Armenians from Turkey, including some of the former students of the Youth Home of Istanbul who grew up in Camp Armen, rushed to the site and are keeping guard day and night, thus halting further demolition of the Camp. Among those who went to the Camp was Rakel Dink, the widow of Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink.

In the letters, Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA, asked that the Turkish leaders strongly consider an intervention and an immediate resolution to avoid further

demolition of this historically significant and beloved Camp and to secure the return of the property to its rightful owners, the Armenian Evangelical Church of Gedik Pasa in Istanbul.

"We are imploring the help of the Turkish leaders in this matter," said Mr. Khanjian. "Camp Armen was home to over 1,500 Armenian orphans who were gathered from the depths of Anatolia and was where Hrant and Rakel Dink met, grew up and were married. The Camp was a labor of love for the orphans and it became their 'Atlantis' civilization. It is an important part of a very meaningful chapter in our Armenian history, and one which we do not want to lose. We pray that God will grant us all a peaceful resolution of this legal struggle."

The AMAA calls upon other Armenian churches and organizations to raise their voices and send similar letters and requests to the leaders of the Turkish government. □



The children of CAMP ARMEN with Hrant Guzelian, the founder of the Camp standing on the right



CAMP ARMEN under the supervision of Hrant and Rakel Dink standing at the back on the left.

Armenian Genocide Centennial Commemorations Held in Paris

The Armenian Evangelical Community of France organized and hosted several events to commemorate the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide, from May 14 to May 17. The Commemorative events started with a three-day international conference entitled, "Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation," presenting two lectures on "The Armenian Genocide and Spirituality," and "New Forms of Genocide in the Middle East today and in the Christian Communities." Both lectures were attended by over two hundred participants, including pastors, scholars and lecturers, in-



cluding Bishop Maroun-Nasser Gemayel, Prelate of the Maronite Church in France. Among the participants of the program were Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian University, and Rakel Dink, the widow of Hrant Dink, from Istanbul, Turkey.

The Centennial commemoration was held on Saturday, May 16, at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Issy-les-Moulineaux with the presence of civil and religious representatives, under the patronage of André Santini, former Minister, Deputy Mayor of Issy-les-Moulineaux. Some of the highlights of the Program were the 100 Centennial Choir voice, planting of an olive tree, inauguration of a Commemorative Stele and exhibition of paintings entitled "Memory" by Armiss, DibaSar and other artists. □

The Genocide of the Armenians, A Genocide to Remember Conference at the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Paris

A conference was held on March 18, by the Palace Protestants Association in the prestigious library of the Bar Association of the Bar of Paris, the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Paris. The speaker was Rev. René Léonian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of France and Representative of the Armenian Evangelical World Council in Eurasia. The organizers welcomed an audience that included magistrates, lawyers from the Paris region and members of the Armenian community.

Master Florence Fresnel, Secretary General of the Palace Protestant Association, welcomed the participants emphasizing the fact that their Association could not ignore the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. Rev. Léonian articulated his remarks by three points. First he talked about the history of Armenia and Armenians. Then he presented the massacres and the Genocide of Armenians in the late 19th century until 1923. And, finally, he emphasized the Genocide recognition process and the Armenian-Turkish dialogue today. He then presented the Genocide in a



historical and political context of the time, detailing the genocidal process employed by the "Young Turks." He presented research elements of a hundred years and expressed hope that on the basis of truth and justice, reconciliation will be possible between the Turks and the Armenians. □

Historic and Memorable Days in Armenia

By **Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian**, AEWK Executive Director

The following is my report about the Armenian Evangelical World Council's (AEWC) Executive Committee's visit to Armenia on the Centennial observances of the Armenian Genocide:

I. Centennial Observances

In its October 16-17, 2014 meeting, the AEWK decided to hold a special Executive Committee meeting in Armenia in late April 2015, in order to participate in the national Centennial observances of the Genocide. Pursuant to this decision, a Special Executive Committee meeting was held on April 28, 2015, in Yerevan.

Prior to the meeting, an Armenian Evangelical delegation attended the "Global Forum Against the Crime of Genocide," organized by the Republic of Armenia and was held on April 22-23, at the Sport's and Concert's Center (Hamalir) in Yerevan.

More than 600 people, including presidents, parliamentarians, statesmen, international jurists, clergy and scholars participated in the two-day Forum, whose general theme was "I Remember and I Demand."

On April 23, an Armenian Evangelical delegation attended the canonization ceremony of the victims of the Armenian Genocide at Etchmiadzin, led by His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians and His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia. Hundreds of Armenian and non-Armenian clergy, as well as representatives of various government delegations, headed by President Serzh Sargsyan, were in attendance.

Friday, April 24, 2015 was the day of the official Centennial Observance of the Genocide. The commemoration took place at the Dzidzernagapert Memorial monument in Yerevan. Political and spiritual leaders, as well as dozens of foreign dignitaries, marked the 100th Anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide. The heads of the visiting delegations walked to the memorial monument one at a time, escorted by Armenian schoolgirls holding the national flags of their respective countries. Each foreign leader then put a yellow rose into the wreath shaped as a forget-me-not flower, the official emblem of the commemorations of the Genocide Centennial. Following the three-hour ceremony, the daylong procession of ordinary citizens began amid heavy rain.

On April 28, in what has been an annual ritual, the Armenian Evangelical churches from all over the country gathered together in the Memorial Park. They marched to the monument, singing the Hayr Mer, and laid flowers by the hilltop memorial's eternal flame.

II. Other Activities

Besides visiting some of the Evangelical churches of Armenia and the centers of AMAA in various towns of Armenia, the Executive Committee members were engaged in the following activities:

a. Paid a visit to the Minister of Diaspora, the Honorable Hranoush Hagopian, on April 27.



Members of the AEWK Executive Committee. Pictured L to R: Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, Rev. Garnik Tutukyan, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, Rev. Megrdoch Karagoezian, Rev. Joel Mikaelian, Rev. René Leonian and Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian. Missing from the picture is Zaven Khanjian due to medical emergency.



Visiting with RA Minister of Diaspora, Hranoush Hagopian.

b. Attended a Centennial Anniversary Commemoration event sponsored by the Evangelical Church of Armenia on the evening of April 28.

c. Paid a visit to His Holiness Karekin II at Etchmiadzin on April 29.

d. Had a luncheon/fellowship hour with the pastors of the Evangelical Church of Armenia, April 29.

The Executive Committee members are grateful to God for giving them the opportunity to spend a few historic and memorable days in the Fatherland Armenia on the Centennial Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. □

In Lebanon The Cedars Stand Tall and Dignified

By Zaven Khanjian

Spring has traditionally been the season for Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) executives, officers and Near East Committee members to join the Haigazian University Board of Trustees and head to Lebanon for joint annual meetings, special events and a tour of one of the major AMAA mission fields. This year, from May 1-11, the participants enjoyed an added attraction, that of Haigazian University's 60th Anniversary Banquet at the Beirut Phoenicia Hotel.

The Central Committee of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) and the President's Office of Haigazian University spared no effort to make the trip warm and hospitable, productive and efficient, cordial and pleasant.

A warm and hospitable spirit, visitation itinerary, meeting arrangements, transportation, individual and group discussions were all up to and beyond expectations. Indeed, personal encounters ease the way of communications to culminate in a smoother and more efficient resolution of issues of joint concern in the field.

Notably, a younger generation of leaders at the UAECNE has emerged, pinning a ton of hope on their collective involvement to boldly confront the ever increasing challenges facing the individual, the church, the community and the region.

I had the joy and privilege of visiting all five Armenian Evangelical Churches, five Armenian Evangelical Schools, the Armenian Evangelical Social Action Committee, the Center for Armenian Handicapped in Lebanon - CAHL, the Near East School of Theology - NEST and the Haigazian University Campus. I also participated in the dedication of the newly renovated structures at KCHAG (Summer Camp site of UAECNE) and a Genocide Centennial Concert at the American University of Beirut - AUB.

On May 4, Haigazian University organized a Beirut presentation of my two books on campus and on May 7, the University's 60th Anniversary celebratory events were crowned with a magnificent banquet attended by over 430 Lebanese and Armenian dignitaries and guests from the United States.

Our meetings with pastors, school principals, administrators, UAECNE Central Committee leadership, the Presidents of the Armenian Evangelical Communities of Syria and Lebanon, Haigazian University President, Administration and Board of Trustees were fruitful, informative, productive and promising.

Our meetings with the President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, Rev. Haroutune Selimian was joyful yet emotional. On his way back from Armenia, this courageous shepherd of the flock in Syria reported on the deteriorating security situation in Aleppo, thanked the AMAA for its steadfast support and vowed to stay put in his leadership role despite the most serious challenges any Diaspora community has ever faced since the century old Genocide.

We are unshakably determined to stay on guard and continue the flow of humanitarian aid into Syria, to bring desperate families



KCHAG - in front of the bungalow renovated with a donation by Dr. & Mrs. Vicken and Sossy Aharonian (on right) in memory of Rev. & Mrs. Hovhannes and Lydia Aharonian.



Haigazian University Board of Trustees.

out of the danger zone and to help our Syrian refugee kin in Lebanon and Armenia.

I thank God for the passion to serve that I witnessed and I pray that the Lord Almighty will grant all the wisdom to lead, the courage to protect and the energy to serve and carry on the very important and vital tasks that the traditionally spiritually fertile lands of the Middle East are entrusted.

The Near East and their communities are very dear to us. With blessings from above we shall continue our steadfast support of the communities in every field of mission that has been planted on the ground. □

Haigazian University's 60th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Haigazian University's 60th Anniversary Gala Dinner was held May 7 in the Grand Ballroom of the Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel, Beirut, Lebanon.

The Gala was attended by over 430 guests including many Lebanese officials, members of Parliament, US and Armenian ambassadors, former ministers, religious leaders, heads of foundations, bankers, representatives of the Municipality of Beirut and Bourj Hammoud, University Board of Trustees from the United States, AMAA leadership, American Church delegations, political parties' representatives, and a full complement of deans, faculty, staff and alumni.

Plaques of recognition were bestowed upon foundations and institutions for their major and long term support and partnership with Haigazian University. These included the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), the Stephen Philibosian Foundation, the Global Ministries of the Christian Church and the United Church of Christ in the USA, and the United States Agency for Development (USAID). Medals were also presented to the Sirpuhie and Conte Foundation, the Marash Compatriotic Union, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), the Walid Joumblatt Foundation, and the Goguikian Foundation for providing financial assistance to Haigazian students. In addition, a tribute was made to the late Haig Boyajian whose estate was graciously awarded to the University three years ago.

In his keynote address, University President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian expressed his joy of celebrating "60 years of good education in an atmosphere of friendship, tolerance, and harmony in a country and region where religious-political fanaticism, instability and marketism prevail." Rev. Dr. Haidostian also acknowledged the vision of the founders in laying solid foundations for future generations, the fact that "cultural exchange and difference of background could be a recipe for advancement" and that Haigazian has been "home for the Lebanese wealth of civilization, for Armenian resilience, for American values of voluntarism, and for Evangelical sincerity." He concluded by tackling the challenges of higher education in modern times. "The main challenge in higher education is how we can connect depth of knowledge and the training of the heart, the excellence in grades and the neatness of diplomas with all that is outside the campus," said Rev. Dr. Haidostian.

Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Zaven Khanjian congratulated the 60 years of Haigazian University in shaping the future of new generations, and renewed the commitment of the



Joyce Philibosian Stein cutting the Haigazian University 60th Anniversary cake.

AMAA in supporting the University in its mission in the Middle East, the one of fighting ignorance and darkness and spreading light and peace, human coexistence and brotherly love.

Dean of Arts and Sciences Dr. Arda Ekmekji served as the Master of Ceremonies. Renowned opera singer Arax Chekijian sang and was accompanied by Haigazian alumna Annie Balabanian on the piano. The famous pop jazz singer Zaruhi Babayan and her band from Armenia also performed. □



PLÁCIDO DOMINGO AND HAIGAZIAN UNIVERSITY HIT A HIGH NOTE!

Two Operas, One Extraordinary Evening



Haigazian University is celebrating its 60th Anniversary on October 3rd with a black-tie Gala fundraiser and a performance by Grammy award-winning tenor and conductor Plácido Domingo in the title role of Woody Allen's production of Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi." The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles will play host to the evening's celebration which will be co-chaired by Harry Nadjarian and Tina Segel.

Speaking of the upcoming celebration, Mr. Domingo expressed words of welcome and nostalgia. "My mother, who was a wonderful singer, studied with an Armenian vocal teacher, so I have had a lifelong admiration for the Armenian Community's rich tradition of music and performing arts. I am proud to welcome you to [the] LA Opera and I look forward to a wonderful celebration with you in our home."

The evening will begin with a champagne and Lebanese mezze pre-reception for Haigazian guests, followed by two stunning performances by the incomparable Domingo—first, on stage, to sing the title role in Woody Allen's production of the near-century old opera, "Gianni Schicchi" after which he will take to the podium and conduct Franco Zeffirelli's production of Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci."

Following the performances, the evening will continue in the prestigious Grand Hall where guests of the Anniversary Celebration will dine and mingle during the Gala Supper.

Honorary Committee members include Governor George Deukmejian, Baroness Caroline Cox, Vartan Grigorian, and Joyce Philibosian Stein. More special guests to be announced.

Haigazian University may be half a world away in Beirut, Lebanon, but its influence and purpose is felt globally. With many of its founding roots planted in the United States, the University has been preserving Armenian culture and preparing future educators in the Diaspora for nearly 60 years. This upcoming Anniversary is a celebration of both the School and all for which it stands.

Ticket information will be announced soon. All proceeds to benefit Haigazian University. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!



Harry Nadjarian and Tina Segel in front of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

Harry Nadjarian Receives Ellis Island Medal of Honor

Each year, since 1986, the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO) in collaboration with each branch of the US Armed forces, holds a ceremony on Ellis Island to bestow the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award on only 100 qualified recipients. Past medalists include United States Presidents, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Gerald Ford; government leaders including Colin Powell, Lee Iacocca; and media giants such as Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra and Tom Brokaw.

This year, seven of the recipients were of Armenian descent, and one of them was Harry Nadjarian.

Harry is not a new visitor to Ellis Island. In July 1986, during the centennial celebration on Ellis Island, dubbed Liberty Weekend, President Ronald Reagan honored twelve naturalized immigrants who had made great contributions to America. Indeed, Harry was one of the twelve recipients of the Medal of Liberty award and was sworn in as a U.S. Citizen by Chief Justice Warren Burger.

Harry was born in Lebanon to proud *Marashtsi* parents. He attended the local Armenian Evangelical School. He entered the business world as a marketing director for a successful travel agency in Beirut. At the age of 23, he immigrated to the United States to pursue the American Dream. Within a short period of time, he founded and built the Industrial Motor and Power Corporation (IMP).

Over the years, the Nadjarians have generously supported American, Armenian and Lebanese educational, athletic and cultural organizations. In 2014, Harry was recognized by the Lebanese American Foundation for his outstanding achievements in the business world and for his philanthropic contributions. He was the recipient of the Dr. Ray Irani "Pride of Heritage Award."



Harry and his wife Cheryl are blessed with two children, Alexandra and Nicholas who is married to Marrisa, and a grandchild Simone.

Harry serves on the boards of several organizations, including Haigazian University, the only Armenian University in the Diaspora.

Editor's Note: The AMAA Board of Directors and Haigazian University Board of Trustees congratulate the Nadjarians for this prestigious award and wish them great success as they continue to serve people around the world. □

Zaven Khanjian's (Executive Director/CEO) Message presented in Arabic at Haigazian University's 60th Anniversary Banquet. Below is the English translation of the message.

On behalf of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, its Board of Directors, its President, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, its general membership, its support base and the donor public at large, I salute you this evening.

For 60 long years, Haigazian University has been a beacon of light, educating young men and women, preparing a leadership in the Middle East, exporting well rounded professionals across the oceans and dispursing ignorance and darkness wherever its rays rest upon.

Whatever the given reasons, ignorance and darkness are the mother of all crisis and subsequent pain and suffering in the world. And ignorance and darkness are not identified by geography. They are everywhere in the East and the West and in between. Money and Power do not disperse ignorance; on the contrary often they are the tools of ignorance and darkness.

In its fight and struggle to dispel ignorance and darkness, the AMAA has for the past 60 years strongly supported this beacon of light and through it spreads light in the region and everywhere HU's graduates have disbursed throughout the globe.

Tonight, in our strongest commitment to eliminate pain and suffering experienced by the people of the region and humanity at large, we reiterate our conviction and dedication to keep this beacon of light, Haigazian University, glowing in the cradle of the civilization, the Middle East, to fight ignorance and darkness and spread the light of peace, human coexistence and brotherly love all around.

We congratulate Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian and the extended family of Haigazian University on this joyous occasion and may the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ rest upon you all. Thank you.

Meet Our Veteran Pastors: The Rev. John Avedis Zarifian

By **Mihran Jizmejian**, AMAC Executive Director

The Rev. John Avedis Zarifian was born in Marseille, France in 1926. A few years later the family moved to Aix-en-Provence, a university city near Marseille. He received his bachelor's degree in 1944 from "College du Sacre-Coeur" in Marseille. He was called to military service from October 1947 to January 1949 in Paris. He studied at Aix-en-Provence Theological Seminary from September 1949 to June 1951.

In November 1951, John was sent by the Armenian Evangelical Union of France to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he became Pastor of the Armenian Holy Trinity Congregational Church. He continued his theological studies at the Theological Seminary of Buenos Aires and received his Master of Divinity degree in 1955.

He was ordained on August 22, 1954, by Bishop John Gatinoni of the Methodist Episcopal Church of South America, Rev. Kevork Balikian, and Rev. Nazareth Salibian with the consent of the Armenian Evangelical Church and the Theological Seminary of Argentina. He was married to Lois Balikian in May 1952 and they were blessed with a son in 1955.

After serving in Buenos Aires from December 1951 to March 1962, Rev. Zarifian received an invitation to visit the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the United States.

In September 1962, Rev. Zarifian came to Salem, NH and pastored the Armenian Ararat Congregational Church until the end of 1966.

From 1967 to February 1977, for almost 11 years, he served as Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal.

From 1977 to 1980, he served in the Middle East as an evangelist.

From March 1, 1980 to June 30, 1998 he served in the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church in Rhode Island.

During his ministry, Rev. Zarifian was a visiting evangelist in the following countries: France, Greece, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Turkey and Armenia.

Since his retirement from active ministry in 1998, he accepted a call from the late Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian without remuneration, (travel expenses only covered by the AMAA), to be a visiting evangelist in Syria, Lebanon, Greece, Turkey, Iran, Armenia and South America. Rev. Zarifian has devoted all of his time, talents and energy to evangelism, and has been instrumental in bringing many to Christ.

Rev. John Zarifian has been a faithful servant of the Lord for almost 65 years.

In recognition of his selfless services to both the Providence church where Rev. Zarifian has served 18 years, and the Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal for six years, the churches have granted him the honorary Pastor Emeritus title.

Currently Rev. Zarifian and his wife Lois reside in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. □



AMAA Benefactor Dr. Daniel Abdulian Celebrates 90th Birthday

On Sunday March 22, 2015, over one hundred family members and friends met at the Wilshire Country Club in Los Angeles to celebrate Dr. Abdulian's 90th birthday.

We, at the AMAA thank God for the lives of Daniel and Juliette, for their love for the Lord, for their church, for the AMAA ministries and for the Merdinian school. May God continue to bless you abundantly.

Dr. & Mrs. Daniel and Juliette Abdulian.

Anahis Derian Boolghoorjian

Benefactor Par Excellence

As we commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, we want to share with our friends and supporters the life journey of a lady who has traveled extensively, witnessed the suffering of the Armenian people in remote places such as Der El Zor, has provided medical assistance to the wounded, comfort to the lonely, and financial aid as needed for the Christian and Armenian ministry among her people.

Anahis Derian Boolghoorjian was born in Beirut, Lebanon. As a child, she moved to Jerusalem with her parents and six siblings. She received her education at the Armenian Nazarene elementary school and the British high school and pursued her education in Cyprus to become a registered nurse. She later studied at the Altounian Hospital in Aleppo. She graduated as a Registered Nurse, RN with honors, from the Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Tripoli, Lebanon. Her nursing profession led her to serve Armenians and Bedouin Arabs in Der El Zor. Here, she met kidnapped Armenian women, orphaned Armenian boys, and refugees from her parents' hometown of Marash. Meeting and feeling the sufferings of her people shaped her character to become a stronger Christian and a generous donor to reach out for those in need.

Anahis moved to Pasadena, CA with her family in 1956. She met Henry, whom she married in 1957. After working as a nurse for several years at the Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital and the Salvation Army's Unwed Mothers' Care Center in Pasadena, she joined her husband in the real estate business. On September 6, 2007, she lost her husband, who had been suffering from Parkinson's disease. In 2010, she met her present husband, an Armenian school principal for many years, Aram Boolghoorjian.

Anahis has been a very active member of the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena, CA. She has been a member of the Dorcas Guild and the Hye couples and served as the President of the Ladies Auxiliary for three years, as a Trustee for ten years, and as a Moderator for three years. Anahis, in deep gratitude to God's inexhaustible goodness, has made generous contributions to Christian and Armenian organizations. Her donations include the following:

Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church donations include the construction of the Henry and Anahis Derian Fellowship Hall, the remodeling of the church entrance, and the construction of a dome.

Merдинian School: Renovation of the auditorium.

Camp Arev: New construction of a multipurpose room.

Marash Patriotic Union of Pasadena: Helped in paying off the mortgage loan.

Yerevan, Armenia: Helped fund the renovation of the social hall of the Armenian Evangelical Theological Seminary, through the AMAA.

Lebanon: Made a generous donation to Haigazian University; sponsored the remodeling of a cabin in Camp KCHAG, and supported the Gertmenian School and the Shamlian Tatigian Armenian Evangelical School, where Aram Boolghoorjian had



Anahis (center) in Der El Zor.



Henry and Anahis Derian at the Opening of the Fellowship Hall of the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena.



Anahis pictured with Dr. Vahe Nalbandian (left), Chair of the Merдинian School Board, and Aram Boolghoorjian at the dedication of the School's Anahis D. Boolghoorjian Auditorium.

served as a principal and Rev. Berdj Djambazian (Anahis' cousin) was the pastor.

We take this opportunity to thank Anahis for her love for the Lord, for her church, and for the Armenian people worldwide. □

The Newly Published Book of Rev. Dr. Peter B. Doghramji

Exploring Our Faith: In the Words of the Apostles' Creed

By Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

Although previously appearing in the form of a series of articles in the monthly "News Bulletin" of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA, from 1977-1979, the Rev. Dr. Peter B. Doghramji's present volume, "Exploring Our Faith: In the Words of the Apostles' Creed," is a most welcome addition to contemporary Armenian Evangelical literature.

Rev. Dr. Doghramji is one of the most distinguished Armenian Evangelical theologians in our days. In 37 brief chapters, the author takes up line by line and word by word the Apostles' Creed and discusses its meaning to us.

The Apostles' Creed is one of the most ancient and important creeds of Christendom, which summarizes the essential and foundational beliefs of the Christian Church.

Speaking of the Christian Creeds and how they were formulated, it must be stated that even in the early centuries of Christendom, when thousands of martyrs were dying for their faith, there were those within the ranks of the Church who were questioning and challenging some of its basic teachings. The Church tried to define its faith. In doing so, it often engaged in a battle between orthodoxy and heresy.

Orthodoxy (derived from a Greek term meaning "right opinion") slowly and gradually took form through give-and-take arguments, scriptural interpretations and decisions of the Ecumenical Councils. Heresy was a departure from the accepted orthodox doctrine.

The struggle between orthodoxy and heresy produced several creeds of universal significance. Every plank in the platform of a Creed was laid because some heresy had arisen, threatening to change the nature of Christianity. In facing heresy, Christians were forced to think out the implications of their faith and convictions.

Although not written by Jesus' Apostles themselves, the Apostles' Creed contains the main teachings of the Apostles. The Creed probably originated in the second century, but was developed through a few centuries until it received its final form.

The Apostles' Creed deals primarily with God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. But it also covers other essential themes such as the church, the communion of saints, sin and salvation, heaven and hell and life everlasting.

In this book, Rev. Dr. Doghramji, with inspiring zeal and profound theological reflection, explores the implications of the basic tenets of the Church in our daily lives.

Born in Aleppo, Syria, Peter Butros Doghramji received his college and seminary education at Aleppo College in Syria, at the American University of Beirut and the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon. After serving Assyrian, Armenian and Presbyterian churches and educational institutions for about two decades, Rev. Dr. Doghramji came to the United States and did his graduate work at Harvard Divinity School, receiving a Master of

Theology degree and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Doghramji is a retired veteran Armenian Evangelical minister who has served over six decades in various pastoral, educational and administrative positions in Syria, Lebanon and in the United States. He is a pastor, educator and an administrator par excellence. Whether an elementary school principal or college president in Aleppo, Syria, or Professor of Theology at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon, or a pastor in Aleppo, Jezireh, Havertown, Downey, Hollywood and New York, Dr. Doghramji's career included all three areas of pastoral, educational and administrative ministries.

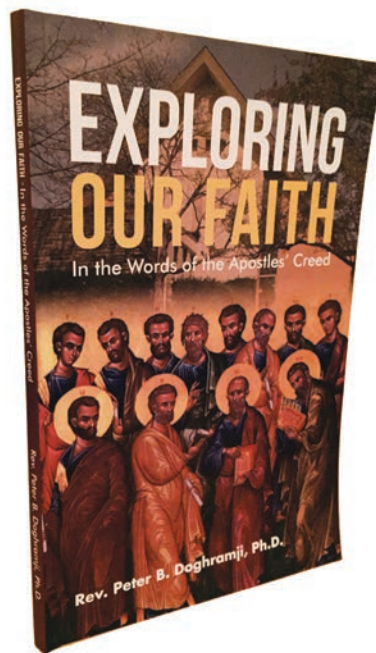
Rev. Dr. Doghramji also played an important role in the Armenian Evangelical Union of America (AEUNA) first as charter member and later as its first Executive Secretary, Chair of Ministry Committee, Chair of Theological and Ethical Commission, and Moderator. He became a good will ambassador

of the Armenian Evangelicals to non-Armenians when he served as Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ in Pennsylvania.

Standing in the tradition of the pastor-theologian, the Rev. Dr. Peter B. Doghramji, through this book, once again proves the fact that he is not only an astute theologian but also a keen observer and a perceptive analyst of our contemporary culture and society.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this thought provoking book and highly recommend it to the reading public.

To purchase a copy of Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji's "Exploring Our Faith: In the Words of the Apostles' Creed" book please contact the AMAA at 201.265.2607 or visit AMAA's website at amaa.org. Cost of each book is \$10.00 plus shipping and handling. □



AMA-Australia Holds Sunday Worship and Fundraising Luncheon

Since its establishment in March 2001, the Armenian Missionary Association of Australia (AMA-Australia) as a District Committee has been actively supporting the missionary work of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). Through the tireless efforts of its founding members and those who have joined in subsequent years, the Committee has worked hard to bring awareness to the Armenian community at large, and specifically to the members of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney as well as our friends, the needs of our fellow Armenians in Armenia and in the Middle East.

Over the years, AMA-Australia has organized programs and various fundraising cultural and social functions, allocating all the funds raised to provide for the needs of our brothers and sisters in Armenia and for the last few years in Syria and Lebanon. AMA-Australia also continues its sponsorship programs with 42 children being sponsored in Armenia and 24 students in Lebanon and Syria through the AMAA's Sponsorship Program.

As in previous years, this year on March 15 AMAA Sunday was observed in the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sydney, followed by a Luncheon in St. Andrew's Uniting Church's War Memorial Hall, with more than 120 guests. After two consecutive years, funds were raised to support our brothers and sisters in Syria, both in Aleppo and Kessab, raising a total of 55,000 Australia dollars.

We turned our attention this year to the needs of the people living in bordering villages of Armenia, the most dangerous zone of the country. At our fundraising functions we were able to raise enough funds to construct a much needed Playground for the children of Choratan Village School. For this purpose, we invited Lusine Ohanyan, External Relations Coordinator of the Armenian Missionary Association in Armenia, who works closely with the bordering villages and is familiar with their urgent needs. With a short film and photos, Lusine presented the much needed support required to help those who live with extremely limited resources. To raise the needed funds, we asked for donations and we are glad that many responded positively. We also had raffles on six paintings and an auction with an Armenian rug which were all brought from Armenia for fundraising purposes.



AMA-Australia Executive Committee members pictured with the guests. L to R: Dr. Mark Cholakyan, Louisa Janbazian, Asdghig Manoukian, Sossie Paproumian, Lusine Ohanyan, Lena Boymoushakian, Rev. Dr. Krikor and Datevig Youmshajekian, Apraham Ishkhanian and Thomas Tovmassian.

We were also happy to have Louisa Janbazian, AMAA PR/ Communications Coordinator from the United States, as our guest of honor. Mrs. Janbazian's presence and encouraging words gave support to our program and fundraising efforts.

We would like to thank Lusine Ohanyan and Louisa Janbazian for their presence and help to raise the necessary funds to complete the Playground Project in Choratan village.

We hope that the Playground will be ready to be officially opened at the end of September with the support of Harout Nercessian, AMAA's Representative in Armenia. Some of the AMA-Australia District Committee members are planning to be in Armenia around that time for the official opening. We would like to thank all those who have responded to our request and gave generously for this project.

May the glory be to the Father and His blessing upon us all and upon the missionary work of the AMAA. □

Avedisian School Hosts TED^x Event

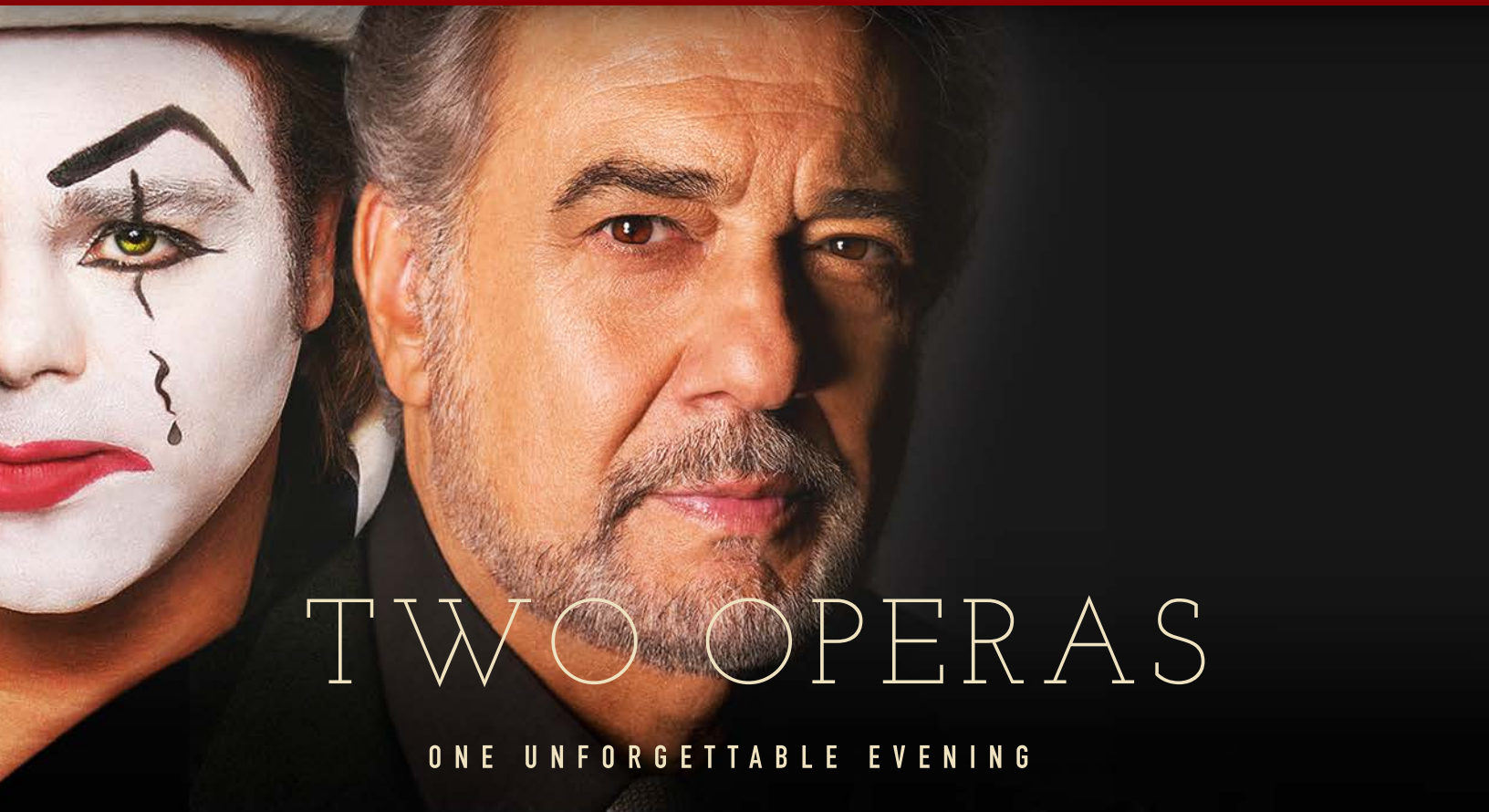


On March 7, a conference titled "Time and Space" was held at the Avedisian School's auditorium in Yerevan. The main topic was Armenia's environmental challenges.

Claire Medina, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP, was the Mistress of Ceremonies. Diana Harutyunian discussed global climate changes and Hayk Harutyunyan spoke about Armenia's energy future. Environmentalist Karen Aghababyan and Agriculturalist Vardan Urutyan discussed the environmental and agricultural challenges and opportunities facing Armenia.

----- SAVE THE DATE -----

HAIGAZIAN UNIVERSITY *with* LA OPERA *presents*



TWO OPERAS

ONE UNFORGETTABLE EVENING

Haigazian University's 60th Anniversary Gala Celebration.

*A rare opportunity to experience Plácido Domingo
singing the title role of Gianni Schicchi and conducting Pagliacci.*

Gala Supper to follow. *All proceeds benefit Haigazian University.*

*Legendary singer
& conductor*

**PLÁCIDO
DOMINGO**

IN

*Woody Allen's
production of*

**GIANNI
SCHICCHI**

&

*Franco Zeffirelli's
production of*

PAGLIACCI

Save the date **OCTOBER 3, 2015**

LA Child and Orphan Care Committee's March 14 Luncheon and Fashion Show Raises Funds for Children in Armenia

The Beverly Hills Hotel's Crystal Ballroom was the beautiful setting of the AMAA Child and Orphan Care Luncheon and Children's Fashion Show on March 14, where the theme was "Ararat, the Ark and the Rainbow," signifying God's eternal promise. Luncheon Co-Chairs Christine Minasian and Barbara Poladian worked tirelessly to make every aspect of the Luncheon enjoyable for over 450 guests and supporters. They warmly welcomed the guests and introduced the dynamic Emcee, Anita Vogel, Fox News Correspondent, and Dr. Lisa Karamardian, who delivered a moving devotional and prayer.

The flowers, donated by Zareh David Ghoukasian of David Z Design, fit with the theme of Noah's ark and each centerpiece contained a beautiful ark, donated by Tina Segel. This year's Silent Auction, co-chaired by Sandy Bedrosian, Gina Felikian and Leslie Kevorkian, had more than 100 items to bid on, including designer bags and beautiful jewelry. There were many opportunities to help the children in Armenia by sponsoring a child, purchasing food or clothing for a year, or by purchasing a Bible for them to read. This effort was coordinated by Maro Najarian Yacoubian, who organized the child sponsorship table and encouraged everyone to make a difference. Many children were sponsored at the Luncheon.

Joyce Stein, esteemed Advisor and National Co-Chair of the Child and Orphan Care Committee, introduced a video commemorating the 100 year Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and showing how AMAA's important ministry has helped Armenian children and their families for many generations.

After lunch, several children from Lark Musical Society performed for the audience. The children's Fashion Show was introduced by Betty Balian, Christina Jabarian and Christine Zenjiryan, who coordinated this year's Show, which was sponsored and produced by Bloomingdale's Sherman Oaks.

The Bloomingdale's Sherman Oaks team, along with the Committee, worked tirelessly to make the Fashion Show, which featured 50 children and teen models, a complete success. Bloomingdale's was thanked for its partnership and participation in this year's event.

The Finance and Reservations Chair, Sandra Kalemkarian, works tirelessly every year to efficiently close out the Auction. "We are grateful for the very generous donations we received this year," said Sandra, "and especially for all the children that were sponsored."

The guests left the event with a bag full of goodies, including amazing lotions and nail care products donated by Jessica Vartoughian of Jessica Cosmetics, and a reusable shopping bag donated by Bloomingdale's. This year they also received a Genocide Commemorative bracelet, which was donated by Nicole Nishanian and Leslie Shahinian.

In closing, Lori Muncherian and Arsine Phillips, West Coast Co-Chairs of the Committee, thanked the Chairs, the entire Committee and all the donors for their continued support of this event for the children in Armenia who lack the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter. "We are trying to help change a child's life and give hope for a better future one child at a time," said Lori and Arsine.

If you would like to sponsor a child or make a donation, you may visit the AMAA website at amaa.org or call the AMAA at 201-265-2607. □

LA Child and Orphan Care Committee members.



Some of the students of the Lark Musical Society who performed at the Luncheon.



A few of the children from the Fashion Show.



Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey, CA

Holds 85th Anniversary Banquet

The Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey, CA held its 85th Anniversary Banquet celebration on March 8 at the Rio Hondo Event Center in Downey. Following the singing of the United States of America and Armenia National Anthems and the invocation by Pastor Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian, Master of Ceremonies Melik Kumjian led the attendees through the program.

Levon and Anoush Birebirian, long standing members of Immanuel Church, were invited to cut the Anniversary Cake, which was followed by vocal and musical selections performed by Hakob and Nektarine Sefaryan. After dinner, greetings were expressed by Rev. Dr. Ron Tovmassian, Moderator of the AEUNA, and Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. Rev. Ekmekjian presented a video covering Immanuel's early beginnings to the present day.

Keynote Speaker Helen Haig gave an uplifting speech on our theme, "The Church and the Power of the Holy Spirit." Ms. Haig has served as Deputy Director of Policy Development for Governor George Deukmejian, and continues to serve on numerous non-profit boards, bringing her expertise and career experience to the table. She is active in the Armenian Evangelical Community, currently serving on the Merdinian School Board, and working with the Jinishian Memorial Foundation.

Immanuel Council Moderator Rosemary Saatjian presented a plaque to Baghdo Khojikian in appreciation for his serving as Council Moderator for 2013. Also, she and Badveli Ekmekjian displayed a Certificate issued by the City of Downey and a Proclamation issued



L to R: Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian, Pastor of the Church, Rosemary Saatjian, Moderator of the Church Council, and Lisa Khojikian Superintendent of the Sunday School.

by the California State Assembly which were awarded in honor and recognition of Immanuel Church's service to the Armenian community for 85 years.

The beautiful afternoon was concluded when the congregants joined in singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" and Master of Ceremonies Kumjian thanked everyone for attending. Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council, gave the Benediction. □



The old Sanctuary of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church on Magnolia and Washington Boulevards in Downey, CA.



The current Sanctuary of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church on Downey Avenue in Downey, CA.

Merдинian School Banquet

Enthusiastically Honors and Thanks the Merдинian Pioneers

By Helen Haig

The 200 attendees were in agreement. "Intelligent," "visionary," "generous," "persistent," "positive," "focused," "courageous."

These words describe the Charlotte and Elise Merдинian Armenian Evangelical School pioneers who were enthusiastically honored for founding the School at the 33rd Annual Board Banquet on Sunday, March 8, at Wilshire Country Club in Los Angeles, CA.

The honorees, one by one, were called to the podium by Merдинian School Board Chair Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, and each made a few comments about turning the dream of an Armenian Evangelical School in the Greater Los Angeles Area into a reality. The honorees were: Dr. Misak Abdulian, Hrant Agbabian, Vahe Ashkarian, Rev. Dr. Vartkes Kassouni, Zaven Khanjian, Hagop Loussararian, George R. Phillips, Esq. and Sebu Tashjian. Some of the pioneers unfortunately are no longer with us, and among them, Alice Haig, the Founding Chair, was given special mention for her leadership. Also specially noted were former Executive Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian and Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian.

The pioneers spoke about why they felt the need for the School. They also commented about the exceptional teamwork with team members focusing on cooperation, collaboration and kindness toward one another. They noted their common commitment to the highest quality of education, and especially to Christian education. The honorees then related a few of the many miracles that took place as they sought God's guidance and worked on the dream.

As one Merдинian parent, Mariam Kuregyan, wrote the next day, "The room was filled with pride and joy and the lineup was overwhelmingly talented. To see the pioneers in person, to shake their hands, and to hear their stories was a treat for a new parent like me. The obstacles they had to overcome to ensure the success of our School was an eye-opener."

Board Chair Rev. Dr. Nalbandian provided an inspiring overview of the series of milestones the pioneers achieved that led up to the opening of the School. These included the beginning in January 1980 with the formation of an ad hoc Committee and later an investigative and a site search Committee to study the options and the feasibility of having a School in the Greater Los Angeles Area, to the joint founding of the School in 1982 by the AMAA and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America. The rest, as they say, is history.

Principal Lina Arslanian presented a review of the School's substantial accomplishments this past year. Mr. Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA and Chair of the Merдинian Board for many years, provided insightful perspectives on the ongoing importance of the School. Helen Haig, MC for the evening's event, closed with an engaging slide show

presentation starting with the first student body of a few students in the borrowed United Armenian Congregational Church classrooms and ending with the current student body of over 200 students at the current campus.

The Invocation for the evening was given by Rev. Joseph Matossian along with a moment of silence for recently departed Hrair Atikian who served as Board Chair for many years. The Benediction was given by Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian, acting Minister to AEUNA. Beautiful music was provided by vocalist Arlene Aroustamian, and sister-brother team Alice Derkevorkian (music instructor at Merдинian School) accompanied on piano and her violinist brother Armen Derkevorkian.

With its strong foundation of remarkable pioneer leadership, the Merдинian School looks forward to the next phase of growth and accomplishment with God's grace. □

Merдинian School Pioneers

First row L to R: Dr. Misak Abdulian, Hrant Agbabian and Vahe Ashkarian

Second row L to R: Zaven Khanjian, George R. Phillips, Esq. and Sebu Tashjian

Missing from the picture are Rev. Dr. Vartkes Kassouni and Hagop Loussararian who could not attend the banquet due to personal reasons.



Armenian Evangelical Central High School

Alumni Association of Greater Los Angeles Area Celebrates 25th Anniversary

On February 27, 2015, over 240 alumni, teachers, principals and supporters of the Armenian Evangelical Central High School (CHS) Alumni Association of the Greater Los Angeles Area gathered at the Phoenicia Restaurant to celebrate their 25 years of support for their alma mater.

The Mistress of Ceremonies Mary Konyalian welcomed the guests and thanked them for their support. A special welcome was given to current Principal Maral Deyirmenjjan, former Principal Aram Boulghourjian and former teachers Haigaz Chalian and Ani Hagopian Sahakian.

The national anthems were sung by Rev. Berdj Djambazian, Ara Kourouyan and Raffi Kerbabian. Rev. Calvin Sagherian offered the invocation and thanked God for all those who have partnered in the vision and mission of the School.

The Chair of the Association's Founding Committee, Gabriel Albarian, showed a video highlighting CHS past activities.

The Principal presented a video highlighting some school activities and the recent remodeling done in the School, all financed by funds raised by the Alumni. She also honored Gabriel Albarian and Ara Kalfayan for their dedication and service to the School.

During this festive occasion, Chairperson Varouj Charkhedian expressed gratitude to all committee members and supporters of the School. He welcomed Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, and Maggie Sarkouni, Chair of the Prelacy of the Armenian Schools Board of Regents. Special thanks were extended to the AMAA for its continued support and to Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Patricia Turpanjian, who have generously donated to their alma mater.

In keeping the tradition of recognizing a teacher and an alumnus of CHS each year, Dr. Hagop Der Garabedian introduced Haigaz Chalian as the "Teacher of the Year." Mr. Chalian taught Math and Physics, and served as an Assistant Principal from 1961 through 1973.

Later, Mary Konyalian introduced the "Alumnus of the Year," John Titizian, who, after graduating from CHS received his MS degree in electrical engineering from USC. Mr. Titizian is a recognized world scientist. One of his inventions was the "Power transistor for the ARSR4 radar system." He is actively involved in humanitarian work and supports the Armenian community at large.

The cultural program was enriched by Lucine Fyelon, guest soprano singer and violinist. As the alumni enjoyed the warm and festive atmosphere, Hagop Kupelian sang some Armenian songs, followed by singing of the CHS anthem by Angel Bedirian, Ara Kourouyan and Raffi Kerbabian, with the participation of all alumni.

The event was concluded with Dikran Serabian inviting the alumni to photo opportunities around the 25th Anniversary cake. ■

Cutting the 25th Anniversary Cake.



L to R: Maral Deyirmenjjan, Principal of Central High School, Mary Konyalian and Gabriel Albarian, Founding Chairperson of the Alumni Association.



L to R: Haigaz Chalian, Teacher of the Year, Dr. Hagop Der Garabedian and Varouj Charkhedian, current Chairperson of the Alumni Association.



Բարի Երթ Սահակ-Մեսրոպ Հայ Քրիստոնեայ Վարժարանի 35 Ամեակին

Սոնա Պատալեան

Սահակ-Մեսրոպ Հայ Քրիստոնեայ Վարժարանը 35 տարեկան է: Այս ուրախ առիթով, կազմակերպուեցաւ յատկանշական եւ պատմական ճաշկերոյթ մը, որ տեղի ունեցաւ Մարտ 22, 2015-ի յետմիջօրէին Renaissance-ի շքեղ սրահին մէջ: Ուրախալի էր հոն տեսնել 400-է աւելի Սահակ-Մեսրոպի հիմնադիրներ, հոգաբարձուներ, տնօրէններ, շրջանաւարտներ, բարեկամներ եւ ծնողներ:

Առաջին առիթով ճաշկերոյթի յանձնախումբի ատենապետուհի՝ Տիկ. Սօսի Աստուրեան բարեգալուստի խօսքերով հանդէս եկաւ: Ապա դպրոցի հիմնադիրներ, նախկին եւ ներկայ տնօրէններ, եւ Սահակ-Մեսրոպի տարբեր տարիներու շրջանաւարտներ, խորխտ քայլերով մուտք գործեցին դէպի սրահի կեդրոնը, որոնք յոտնկայս դիմաւորուեցան ներկաներու կողմէ ծափողջոյններով:

Տիկ. Աստուրեան ներկայացուց օրուան հանդիսավարները՝ Թամար Պարսումեան 2009-ի շրջանաւարտուհի եւ Արի Ճան Ֆիլեան 2008-ի շրջանաւարտ, որոնք ձեռնհասօրէն վարեցին օրուան յայտագիրը: Ամերիկեան եւ Հայկական ազգային քայլերգները գրաւիչ ձայնով կատարեց Սուրէն Մկրտչեան:

Վարժարանիս Ը. կարգէն Քրիստինա Շիրանեան հայրենաշունչ ոգիով արտասանեց Գէորգ Էմինի «Մենք»ը:

Բացման աղօթքը կատարեց Վեր. Վաչէ Էքմէքեան: Ապա հրամցուեցաւ հայկական համադամ աղանդերներ եւ խորոված, սեղաններուն շուրջ ստեղծելով մտերմիկ եւ հաճելի պահեր:

Առիթը ունեցանք վայելելու տեսաներիզի ցուցադրութիւն մը, որ հիմնադիրներ, տնօրէններ (նախկին եւ այժմու) բազմավաստակ ուսուցիչներ եւ բարեկամներ իրենց սրտաբուխ խօսքերը արտայայտեցին:

Յատուկ գնահատանքի արժանացաւ հոգաբարձական կազմէն Աբրահամ Հալէպլեան իր 25-ամեայ ծառայութեան համար: Հոգաբարձութեան խօսքը ներկայացուց Վահագ Ակոնեան, որ խրախուսիչ խօսքերով քաջալերեց ներկաները:

Կրէկ Հօշարեան իր երրեակին հետ, ներկայացուց գողտրիկ, հոգեշունչ եւ հայրենասիրական երգեր, ոգեւորելով ներկաները:

Օրուան բանախօսն էր Զաւէն Խանճեան, Գործադիր Տնօրէնը Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան:

Բանախօսը իր սրտի խօսքը արտայայտեց հարազատ զգացումներով: Ան յիշեց Սահակ-Մեսրոպ Վարժարանի առաքելութիւնը, որ Արարիչի փառքը հիստող կրթական օճախ մըն է, որ հայ մանուկներ կը դաստիարակուին հայեցի ու քրիստոնէական շունչով:

Ապա ներկայացուեցան երկու հայկական պարեր Տաիդ պարախումբի հեզաճկուն աղջիկներու կատարումով:

Պահն էր հատելու 35 ամեակի կարկանդակը: Տիկ. Աստուրեան հրաւիրեց ճաշկերոյթի հովանաւորները՝ Տէր եւ Տիկ. Սարգիս եւ Նունէ Սէփէթեաններ, Տէր եւ Տիկ. Էտի եւ Գարինա Բելենկեաններ, եւ Տէր եւ Տիկ. Միքայէլ եւ Արփի Եուսուֆեաններ՝ որոնց բացակայութեան պատճառով հրաւիրուեցաւ զաւակը՝ Տէր եւ Տիկ. Արամ եւ Թամար Եուսուֆեաններ: Բեմ հրաւիրուեցան նաեւ այն նուիրատուները, որոնք իրենց նիւթական մասնակցութիւնը բերին այս երեկոյի յաջողութեան: Բոլոր նուիրատուներն ալ ստացան համապատասխան յիշատակի նուէրներ յանձնախումբին կողմէ:

Յատուկ գնահատանքի խօսքեր ուղղուեցան դպրոցիս վերելքին եւ յաջողութեան ծառայողներուն, բարերարներուն, որոնց բարոյական եւ տնտեսական ներդրումով դպրոցս կանգուն մնացած է, գաղութիս նոր սերունդին ջամբելով ազգային եւ կրօնական գիտելիքներ եւ դաստիարակութիւն:

Այժմու տնօրէն՝ Պր. Յովսէփ Ինճէճիքեան, հակիրճ կերպով ընթերցեց երեք պարզեւատրուող ուսուցիչներու կենսագրականները: Տիկ. Մարի Մարաշլեան եւ Տիկ. Լուսի Ստեփանեան յուշատախտակներ ստացան իրենց 20 տարիներու անձնուէր ծառայութեան համար: Իսկ Տիկ. Ռիթա Դաւիթեան յուշատախտակ ստացաւ իր 30 տարուայ ծառայութեան համար, որպէս ուսուցչուհի եւ հոգեւոր տեսուչ:

Յայտագրի աւարտին ելոյթ ունեցան Ե. Կարգի աշակերտները, որոնք հոգեշունչ եւ հայաշունչ հայկական երեք երգերով երեկոն հասցուցին զազաթնակէտին:

Եզրափակիչ խօսքերով հանդէս եկաւ Տէր Պօղոս Քինչ. Պալթայեան, որ միեւնոյն ատեն փոխանցեց Առաջնորդ՝ Մուշեղ Արք. Մարտիրոսեանի բարեմաղթութիւնները: Ապա Վեր. Յովսէփ Մաթոսեանի հետ միասնաբար կատարեցին օրհնութեան աղօթքը եւ Պահպանիչով երեկոն փակուած յայտարարուեցաւ: □



ՀԱՐԻՐԱՄԵԱԿԻ ԿԵՆՍԱՆՈՐՈՎ ՈԳԻՆ

Զատեն Խանճեան

Ապրիլ 24, 2015-ին, կը նշենք Հայոց Ցեղասպանութեան հարիւրամեակը, որ քողարկուած Համաշխարհային Առաջին Պատերազմին ներքեւ, ծրագրուեցաւ եւ իրագործուեցաւ մեր ժողովուրդին դէմ, Օսմանեան Թուրք Պետութեան կողմէ:

Դարեւ ր առաջ եւ այն օրէն իվեր երբ Աստուած Նոյ Նահապետը առաջնորդեց ապահով տարածք մը «.....եւ տապանը Արարատ լեռներուն վրայ նստաւ,» (Մանդոց 8: 4), հայ ժողովուրդը տքնեցաւ հողին վրայ, արինով եւ քրտինքով որոգեց զայն, արուեստ եւ մշակոյթ ստեղծեց, յղացաւ հանճար մը որ նուիրեց ազգին իր եզակի ինքնութիւնը ու շարունակեց ստեղծել ճառագայթող քաղաքակրթութիւն մը, յաղթահարելով յաճախակի հալածանքներն ու ասպատակութիւնները:

20րդ դարու սեմին հայը անհիւրընկալ ժամադրութեան փորձառութիւն մը ապրեցաւ խաւարին հետ: Հազարաւոր տարիներ իր հայրենի օրրանին վրայ ապրող ժողովուրդ մը, վայրագօրէն եւ զազանային մոլուցքով, հնձուեցաւ իր պապենական հողին իսկ վրայ: Դժնդակ ճակատագիրը 1.5 միլիոն անմեղ ազգակիցներու, արմատախիլ եղած դարաւոր պապենական տունէն եւ բնաջնջման առաջնորդուած սուրով, սովամահ կամ հիւանդութեամբ տարագրուած անապատի կիզիչ աւազներուն վրայ, հեռու է մարդկային ամէն երեւակայութենէ:

Աւելին՝ այսօր մեր հաւաքական գիտակցութեան կորիզն են այն անգիտակից բիւր հազարաւոր զոհերը որոնք բռնութեամբ դատապարտուեցան ապրիլ ընկերութեան մը մէջ եւ զգենուկ կրօնք մը որ խորթ էր իրենց բնիկ նախնիներուն, երեւոյթ մը որ ոչ միայն ցեղասպանութեան հարիւրամեակի յիշատակին արժանի է, այլ եւ փաստն է դարձ մը իվեր շարունակուող ցեղասպանութեան ոճիոյն:

Հոգիս անյատնում չարչարող եւ մտքի տուայտանք եւ ցաւ պատճառող, նախնիքներուս անչափելի տառապանքն եւ անգութ ճակատագիրը, հնարքն էր անպատիժ փառքն հրէշային խմբակի մը որ անխափնելիօրէն ճանչցուած է որպէս Օսմանեան կայսրութեան պետութիւն քսաներորդ դարու մուտքին:

Այսօր ոճիոյն հարիւրամեակ մը ետք, երբ ցնծագին փառք կ'ու տանք Աստուծոյ եւ կ'ողջունենք մարդկութեան դէմ գործուած ոճիոյ մը զոհ ազգիս՝ մոխիրէն հրաշքով յառնող իրականութիւնը, կու գանք խոնարհիլ իրենց հաւատքն ու ինքնութիւնը ամուռ պահած ըլլալնուն համար նահատակուող մեր անմեղ զոհերու յիշատակին առջեւ: Եւ տակաւին կ'ուխտենք յաղթահարել ոճիոյ կենսանորոգ ոգիով, յաւելեալ երգով ու պարով, յոյսով եւ հրճուանքով, ժպիտով եւ աղօթքով, իմացական վաստակի յուրթի ստեղծագործութեամբ եւ արդարութեան համար անմար պայքարի մը զսպանակուած կամքով եւ յանձնառութեամբ:

Խաղաղութիւն մեր սրբազան նահատակներուն եւ փա՛ռք յառուցեալ մեր ժողովուրդի կենսանորոգ ոգիին: □



AMAA Board of Directors meeting at the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey, CA.



Meeting with the leadership of Samaritan Purse at the AMAA offices in Glendale, CA.

Հայոց Յեղասպանության Հարիւրամեակի Խոհեր

Վեր. Դոկտ. Վահան Յ. Թութիկեան

Ամէն գիտակից հայու համար Հայոց Յեղասպանութեան Հարիւրամեակը նշանակալից հանգրուան մըն է խոկումի, խորհրդածութեան, ոգեկոչումի, վերանորոգ նուիրումի եւ Հայ Դատը շարունակելու յանձնառութեան:

Արդարեւ, 1915-ի Ապրիլ 24-ով սկսող եւ քանի մը տարի տեւող Հայոց Յեղասպանութիւնը, 20-րդ դարու առաջին ցեղասպանութիւնն էր ի գործ դրուած Օսմանեան Կայսրութեան Երիտասարդ Թուրքերու կառավարութեան կողմէ:

Այդ կանխամտածումած, նախաձեռնութեամբ, պետական մակարդակով եւ համապետական միջոցներով բռնագաղթին, տեղահանութեան եւ ցեղասպանութեան որպէս արդիւնք, հայ ժողովուրդը աւելի քան մէկ ու կէս միլիոն զոհեր տուաւ, պատմական Հայաստանի տարածութեան շուրջ 80 տոկոսը կորսնցուց – հողային տարածութիւն մը, որուն վրայ Հայ սերունդներ ապրած էին դարեր շարունակ, եւ իր երեքհազարամեայ պատմութեան մէջ արձանագրեց մշակութային հսկայ կորուստ մը, անփոխարինելի այնպիսի ժառանգութիւն մը, որուն բացակայութիւնը միշտ զգալի պիտի մնայ:

Արդարեւ, Հայոց Յեղասպանութեան ընթացքին, հայ ժողովուրդին տուած վերականգնելի եւ անվերականգնելի կորուստներու տարողութիւնը կը կազմէ այնպիսի համեմատութիւն մը, որ անբաղդատելի է ջարդի ենթարկուած եւ իրաւագրկուած ժողովուրդներու ֆասսներուն հետ:

Ինչպէս մեր միւս յարանուանութիւնները, Հայ Աւետարանական համայնքն ալ արձանագրեց մարդկային թիւի, մտաւորականութեան, նիւթական եւ մշակութային անսահման կորուստներ:

Ի հեճուկս այս ամէնուն, Յեղասպանութենէն մագապուրծ ազատած «Հայ Մ'նացորդացը», իր անկոտորելի կամքով եւ իր աննկուն վճռականութեամբ աշխարհի ցոյց տուաւ իր ապրելու եւ գոյատեւելու իրաւունքը: Արդարեւ, 1915-ի հայոց տխուր «գողգոթայ»էն երեք տարի ետք, վերապրող հայութիւնը իր հրաշալի «յարութիւնը» ունեցաւ. երբ 1918-ի Մայիսին իր հայրենի հողին վրայ պետականութիւն կերտեց հիմը դնելով մեր ներկայ Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան:

Իսկ Միջին Արեւելքի տարբեր երկիրներու մէջ տարտղնուած եւ հրաշքով վերապրող հայեր քարը ճեղքող եւ քարին վրայ մեծցող բոյսերու նման մեծցան, ուրճացան նորանոր գաղութներ հաստատելով:

Հարկ է հպարտութեամբ յիշել նաեւ, թէ նոյնիսկ Մեծ Եղեռնի ահաւոր տարիներուն հայ ժողովուրդը տեղ տեղ ինքնապաշտպանութեան փորձեր կատարեց,

ինչպէս Վանի, Շապին Գարահիսարի, Ուրֆայի, Մուսա Լեւան եւ Այնթապի մէջ: Այդ մաքարուսներն ու հերոսամարտերը փառքի էջերով կը զարդարեն հայոց պատմութեան այդ ժամանակաշրջանը: Անկասկած Հայ Աւետարանականներու դերն ու մասնակցութիւնը եղած է խիստ յատկանշական: Ո՞վ կրնայ մոռնալ Սողոմոն Թեփիւրեանները, Տիգրան Անդրեասեանները, Ատուր Լեւոնեանները, Յարութիւն Գայայեանները եւ այլ բազմաթիւ մեծանուն կամ անանուն հերոսները, որոնք իրենց գերագոյն զոհողութեամբ հայ ազգին պատիւը բարձր պահեցին:

Հայկական Յեղասպանութեան Հարիւրամեակը այն պատեհ հանգրուանն է, երբ մեր հայրենի իշխանութիւններն ու Սփիւռքահայ կազմակերպութեանց եւ կուսակցութեանց ղեկավարները ձեռք ձեռքի տուած շարունակեն նեցուկ կենալ «Հայ Դատ»ին, եւ յանուն արդարութեան շարունակեն իրենց պահանջատիրութիւնը Թուրք պետութենէն:

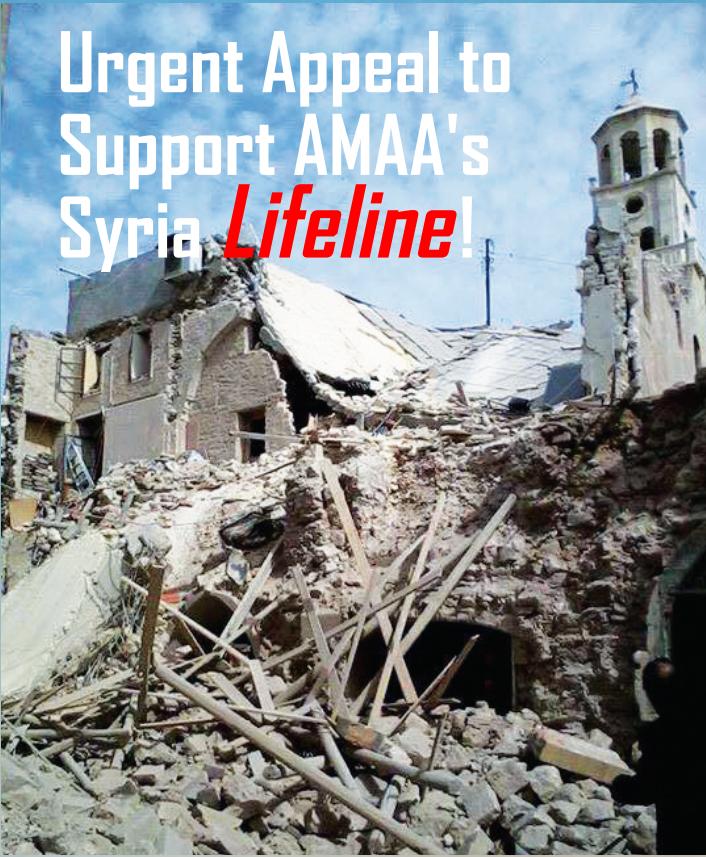
Արդ, Հարիւրամեակը դառնալու է ազգային ուխտի տարի մը հայ նոր սերունդները դաստիարակելու Հայկական Դատի պատմութեամբ եւ հայ քրիստոնէայ ըլլալու կոչումով:

Երբեք չթերագնահատենք հաւաքական մտածողութեան, ազգային եւ քրիստոնէական առողջ դաստիարակութեան դերը, ինչպէս նաեւ քաղաքական պատրաստութեան դերն ու կարեւորութիւնը ազգի մը կեանքին մէջ: Երբեք չթերագնահատենք բարոյական ոյժը միլիոնաւոր հայերու, որոնք իրենց ձայնը կը բարձրացնեն յանուն արդարութեան: Եւ արդարութիւնը, վաղ թէ ուշ, պիտի յաղթանակէ: Որպէս յանձնառու ջահակիրներ մեր արդար դատին, տէր եւ պաշտման ժառանգ անոր՝ պահանջատիրական աննկուն ոգիով:

Թող Աստուած օրինէ յիշատակը Յեղասպանութեան զոհ եղող մեր մէկ ու կէս միլիոն նահատակներուն եւ իմաստութիւն շնորհէ մեզի՝ անոնց յաջորդներուն, որպէս զի կարենանք ապրիլ այն նուիրական արժէքներով եւ անկոյրնչելի արժէքներուն համար, որոնց ի խնդիր անոնք իրենց կեանքը զոհեցին «Վասն Քրիստոսի եւ Վասն Հայրենեաց»: □



Urgent Appeal to Support AMAA's Syria **Lifeline!**



From the Kardashians to the Vatican...

While the Armenian world is in a swivel of Genocide Centennial...

Syrian Armenians are Living the Genocide Every Day

How long, O Lord... How long!
Rev. 6: 10

Lisa Stepanian is a voice in the wilderness, and a powerful one indeed! Her article titled 'When the Rocks Cry Out,' was published in the Mirror Spectator on March 21, 2015.

When it comes to Syria and the Syrian Armenians, the collective Armenian conscience seems to have taken off, is on silent mode or on a leave of absence.

It is unconscionable to even consider that the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide is of lesser

importance. For a hundred years, under the deaf ears of the world, "the Rocks have cried out." We have had enough. When the Centennial Anniversary approached, we planned and scheduled such an ear piercing uproar that is still blocking our hearing.

Stepanian rightfully states, "we are not 'living the past,' the past is alive before us with opportunities to act boldly."

And yet we haven't. We are so obsessed (nothing wrong with it) with the memory of the crime our nation faced a century ago, that we don't see, hear or realize the daily unfolding agony, pain, suffering, death, destruction, horror, melting, collapse and bewilderment of our Syrian Armenian community and especially those living (what a sinister word to describe life in Aleppo) in the post-Genocide refuge of the Mother Armenian Diaspora community of Aleppo, Syria.

Since the beginning of the assault on Syria, Armenians worldwide have very generously provided sustenance to the embattled and beleaguered communities. More is needed. But more than mere sustenance, a **lifeline** is needed.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America is adamant not only to continue its ongoing sustenance assistance to the Syrian Armenians but will continue to be a **lifeline** for those on the frontlines of the war and the refugees caught in the whirlpool of the unknown.

We call upon you to generously extend a helping hand, share a sustainable idea and/or organize a fundraising event to help save and resolve the most serious crisis our Armenian nation has faced since that dreadful crime against humanity our people experienced a century ago.

Lisa Stepanian is a voice in the wilderness. Let us echo her cry out to the world!

Thank you for supporting the Syrian Armenians. May God bless you all.

Zaven Khanjian
Executive Director / CEO

OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 96TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The 96th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church, 725 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco, CA 94132. All members of the AMAA are invited to attend the Meeting to:

- I. Consider and approve the reports of the Officers, Committees, Chapters and Affiliated Boards of the Association for the fiscal year 2014-2015;
- II. Review the financial reports for the fiscal year 2014-2015;
- III. Announce the names of the newly elected Board members;
- IV. Elect members to the Nominating Committee;
- V. Elect an Auditor; and
- VI. Consider and address any other business that may come before the membership.

PROGRAM OF THE 96TH ANNUAL MEETING AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Thursday, October 15th at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church

6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm Armenian Evangelical World Council Meeting

Friday, October 16th at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church

9:30 am Armenian Evangelical World Council Meeting

12:00 pm Lunch

3:00 pm Meeting with AEUNA Churches' Mission Committee Chairs

6:00 pm Dinner

7:00 pm AMAA Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 17th at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church

9:30 am 96th Annual Meeting

12:30 pm Lunch

1:30 pm AMAA Board of Directors Meeting (Short Session)

Saturday, October 17th at the Marriott San Francisco Airport Hotel

6:30 pm Reception

7:30 pm Dinner

Sunday, October 18th at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church

11:00 am 96th Annual Meeting Worship Service and Installation of AMAA Officers

Anitsa Minissian Named Mother of the Year By Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church

Anitsa Minissian, age 92, a longtime member of the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church in Pasadena, CA, was named "Mother of the Year" by the Women's Fellowship Organization. Born in Athens, Greece, Anitsa's mother Azniv Topuzian was an Armenian Genocide survivor. Sadly, Azniv's entire family was tortured, killed, or died of starvation in Zeytoon by the Ottoman Turks. Only Azniv survived. With the help of an American orphanage in Zeytoon, Turkey, she found refuge in Greece where she lived as a refugee, established a life, married and had five children, one of whom was Anitsa.

On February 19, 1947 Anitsa married Vahan Minissian at the Evangelical Church in Athens. As newlyweds the couple moved to Armenia in hopes of establishing a better life and going back to their roots of their Motherland. What they weren't prepared for was the authoritative Stalin Regime. Anitsa endured the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide, lived through Hitler's invasion of Greece during World War II and outlived the Stalin Regime in Armenia. In 1970, the Minissian family of six moved to Pasadena, CA.

She is the epitome of a mother's tender love; for Anitsa, faith, family and love are her three pillars. Anitsa says, "My mother survived much hardship in life, because of her faith in God and through prayer she overcame. I know my mother was a Genocide Survivor because of her resilience, hopeful outlook, and constant faith in God."

At the presentation Anitsa was surrounded by her four children, their spouses, 11 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.



Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, visited churches and AMAA friends, participated in their worship services and brought the greetings of the AMAA.



Zaven Khanjian with Rev. Dr. John Markarian, Founding President of Haigazian College and his wife Inge in West Pittston, PA. Recently Dr. Markarian celebrated his 98th Birthday.



ANCA-organized Near East Foundation's traveling Exhibit "They Shall not Perish: The Story of Near East Relief" at the Los Angeles Public Library, March 6, 2015. Pictured L to R: Rev. Dikran Shanlian, Rev. Joseph Matossian, Rev. Berdj Djambazian, Molly Sullivan, Director and Curator of Near East Relief Historical Society, Zaven Khanjian, Levon Filian and Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian.



At AMAA Headquarters in Paramus, NJ. L to R: Rev. Sarkis Baroudjian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Arsouville Les Gonesse, Zaven Khanjian and Rev. Berj Gulleyan, Pastor of the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ.



At the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena, CA. L to R: Harout Nercessian, AMAA Armenia Representative, David Aynejian, AMAA Director of Finance, Rev. George Terian, Pastor of Pasadena Church and Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO.



On February 28, 2015, the AMAA participated in an all day Volunteer Armenia Exposition in Montebello, CA. Over 15 Armenian organizations promoted their projects and plans to help strengthen ties between the Homeland and Diaspora.



AMAA West Coast Executive Director visits churches as well as friends and donors of the Association on the East and West Coasts.



Meeting at UCLA. L to R: Ann Kerr, Levon Filian and Joyce Abdulian.



Meeting with Abdulians and Nalbandians. L to R: Levon Filian, Dr. Vahe and Seta Nalbandian, Juliette and Dr. Daniel Abdulian.



Visit with Abdulians/Bedrosians in Fresno. L to R: LindaKay Abdulian, Tammy Bedrosian Shegerian, Kathy Bedrosian, Bryan Bedrosian, Dr. Liliana and Levon Filian.



AMAA Sunday at Christian Outreach for Armenians Church in Glendale, CA. L to R: Dr. Liliana and Levon Filian, Rev. Daniel and Suzy Albarian.



Rev. Ara Chakerian and Levon Filian at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church in North Hollywood, CA.



L to R. Dr. Liliana and Levon Filian, Rev. Kevin Kasper, Arousiag Tovmassian Missirlian, Rev. Ara Guekguezian and Knar Guekguezian at the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno, CA.



Levon Filian visiting with Arouss Darpinian of Teaneck, NJ.



Dr. Henry Hadidian (third from left) of Munster, IN visiting AMAA friends and relatives on the West Coast.

Visiting and worshipping with Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, CA with Rev. & Mrs. Abraham Chaparian.

Maggie Matossian

April 28, 1925 - May 14, 2015

A Woman Ahead of her Time



By Joyce Abdulian

There are times in our lives, when rather unexpectedly, a new person appears, and becomes a dear friend. This person, for me, was Maggie Matossian. She and her husband Arthur had just relocated to Los Angeles from Beirut. Our lives and backgrounds were quite different; but the timing of our meeting surpassed all that. We both were so comfortable in each other's company—she always encouraged me; often sharing stories about her amazing, resilient life. Her philosophy of life and action, as I saw it, was to help others.

My initial meeting with Maggie was in 1974 when my husband Jack and I visited the Haigazian College (as it was called then), in Beirut. She immediately arranged for us to have a tour of the campus. Her pride in the school was quite evident. I later became acutely aware of how deeply her interaction and efforts for the school really were.

She was a long-time member of the Board of the Managers, and later Chairman of this Board. She was an active member of the Beirut Women's Auxiliary. The Matossian Gallery on the first floor of the Mugar Building was named in honor of Maggie and her late husband Arthur. It is the site of The Haigazian University Art Center.

The Fontana, an upscale department store owned by Maggie and Arthur, was her domain. Her unique woman's perspective expanded the outreach of the store. She had an innate knowledge of the business world. She had wisdom dealing with the multiple cultures present in the area.

I got to know and love Maggie when she moved to Los Angeles and became a member of the Haigazian Women's Auxiliary. Her first-hand knowledge of the University, as we planned fund-raising events, was invaluable. It was in this context of the Auxiliary that our friendship grew. She loved all the ladies in the Auxiliary and was very happy to be involved. Our meetings at her home always concluded with culinary delights. Caring for the fruit trees in her garden, and sharing their produce, was her joy.

She spoke to me of her deep love for her father, Rev. Yenovk Guekguezian, Pastor of the First Armenian Evangelical Church in Beirut. She recalled listening to his erudite sermons with admiration. She was completely devoted to her family—the consummate Matriarch.

She was a brilliant student. Her first love was to become a physician, and she competed for first-in-class with her male counterparts. Her dream was never realized—a victim of female roles at that time.

More personally, she was this dear friend who knew how to listen, and always had an encouraging word. I missed her when she moved to Florida. She wanted to be closer to her family. We spoke from time to time, recalling our good times together. Even though her health was compromised, she was accepting of her condition, grateful for a full life, and each new day. She will be dearly missed by those whose lives she touched. Rest peacefully, dear friend.

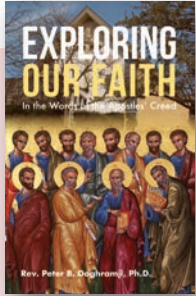
Maggie is survived by her sister, Shoghig (Sunny) Malouf, and family.

Los Angeles area Ministerium Meet with ALPHA

On Wednesday, May 14, the Greater Los Angeles Area Armenian Evangelical Ministerium met with ALPHA at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of North Hollywood, CA. The main topics of discussion were how to provide help to Syrian Armenians who have moved to California, and how to implement ALPHA Bible study programs in the Armenian Evangelical Churches.



Featured Books from AMAA's Book Store



Exploring Our Faith

*Exploring Our Faith:
In the Words of the Apostles' Creed*
By Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji

Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji, with inspiring zeal and profound theological reflection, explores the implications of the basic tenets of the Church in our daily lives. Rev. Dr. Doghramji's attempt to "explore our faith" is to discover living truths in the creed that will open our eyes and minds, our "logos" to the LOGOS who lives among us and in us.

Item # 358 - Price: \$10.00

To order this book, please fill out the Book Order Form.

Renewed Faith DVD

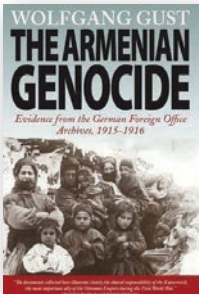
*Renewed Faith: A Historical Review of the
First Armenian Evangelical Church of Beirut,
Lebanon*

directed by Hratch A. Tokatlian

"Renewed Faith" begins with the history of the Evangelical movement in Constantinople, moves on to the establishment of the Armenian Evangelical community in Beirut during the 1920s and focuses on the First Armenian Evangelical Church's history from 1922 and onward.

Item # CO359- Price: \$12.50

To order this DVD, please fill out the Book Order Form.



The Armenian Genocide

*Evidence from the German Foreign
Office Archives, 1915-1916*
Compiled and edited by Wolfgang
Gust

In close to 800 pages the book contains hundreds of telegrams, letters and reports from German consular officials in the Ottoman Empire to the Foreign Office in Berlin

which describe in graphic and shocking detail the unfolding Genocide of the Armenians.

Item # 349 - Price: \$75.00

To order this book, please fill out the Book Order Form.

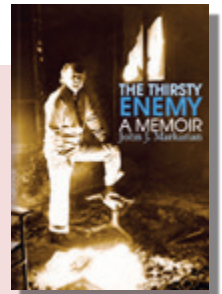
The Thirsty Enemy

The Thirsty Enemy - A Memoir
By Rev. Dr. John Markarian

The book, a memoir, tells Dr. Markarian's story of being the founding president of Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon, and of his and his wife's adventure of living in Lebanon during the Civil War Year and caring for thousands of refugees during seven years of war.

Item # 335 - Price: \$22.95

To order this book, please fill out the Book Order Form.



Book Order Form

Please forward Book(s) {List by catalogue No.(s)}

(s) _____ For a total of \$ _____ plus \$ _____
for postage and handling.

In the U.S. add US\$5.00 for first copy and US\$2.00 for each additional book. For Canada and international orders, please call or e-mail AMAA for shipping and handling charges before you send in your order - (order books by catalogue numbers).

Name: _____

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Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

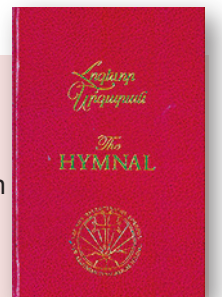
Make checks payable to AMAA in U.S. dollars and mail to AMAA, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To purchase with a credit/debit card, please call the AMAA office at 201.265.2607 or visit our website www.amaa.org

The Hymnal

The Hymnal (Hokevor Yerkanan), published by the Armenian Heritage Committee of Royal Oak, Michigan, (August 2014), represents the culmination of 22 years of tireless and selfless labor by its two editors, the brother-sister team of Hrant Agbabian and Lucina Agbabian Hubbard. Lifelong members of the Armenian Evangelical Community and the children of Rev. Siragan Agbabian, each brought their significant musical talents to bear on a task that neither anticipated would last the better part of a quarter century. Hrant was for decades choir conductor at the largest Armenian Evangelical Church in the US; Lucina has for many years been teaching Armenian music history at USC. Working with them were a number of distinguished clergy and laymen from both within and without the Evangelical tradition.

Item # 353 - Price: \$30.00

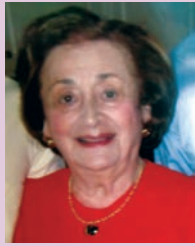
To order this book, please fill out the Book Order Form.



For a complete listing of our bookstore items please contact AMAA Book Store: 201.265.2607, or visit www.amaa.org

Alice Bogdasarian

Alice Taneian Bogdasarian, of The Southgate Community in Shrewsbury, MA, and a longtime Binghamton, NY resident, died March 31, 2015 at the Rose Monahan Residence in Worcester. She was 92.



Born on November 14, 1922 in Guttenberg, NJ, she was a daughter of Armenian immigrants Boghos and Haiganoush (Dirhemjan) Taneian. She married John M. Bogdasarian on April 27, 1946 and was married to him until his death on January 15, 2010. She and John lived most of their lives in Binghamton, NY and wintered in Boca Raton, FL.

Alice was active in the Binghamton community where she volunteered for over 50 years at Lourdes Hospital and was recently honored by the Hospital for her years of service. She was also a member of the Monday Afternoon Club and a founding member and past-president of the Inner Wheel Circle of the Women's Rotary Club. She was active in the Armenian churches in both Binghamton and Boca Raton.

Alice's life centered on her family and she will long be remembered for her talent of cooking Armenian dishes and pastries. In a family dominated by three generations of women, she welcomed the first boy born into the family in almost 100 years, her great-grandson, Percival James Secor.

In Heaven Alice joins her husband and her siblings, Beatrice Kassapian and her twin, Rosemarie Goulian.

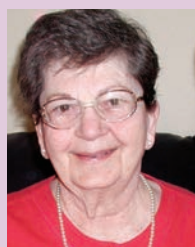
She is survived by her daughters, Rosemarie B. Peelle and her husband, Kenneth, Suzanne L. Schoettinger and her husband, Douglas, and Valerie B. Stachnick and her husband, James; her granddaughters, Brooke Guthrie, Lydia Peelle, Katie Diener, Leigh Schoettinger and Agnes Stachnick; eight great-grandchildren; her sister, Gloria Kouzoujian, and nieces and nephews.

Family and friends gathered to honor and remember Alice's life on May 2 in The Chapel at Lourdes Hospital. Her memorial service was held in Vestal Hills Cemetery in Vestal, NY.

Memorials in her name may be made to the John and Alice Bogdasarian Memorial Fund, Armenian Missionary Association of America, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652 or to Lourdes Hospital Foundation, 169 Riverside Drive, Suite 103, Binghamton, NY 13005. □

Alice Beylerian

Alice Beylerian, mother of former AMAA Field Director Armen Beylerian, passed away peacefully on March 23, 2015 in Fremont, CA. She was 87.



She was born in Alexandria, Egypt of parents Mary (Halepli-

an) and Mihran Kalfayan, both from Ainteb, Turkey.

Alice attended an Italian Catholic School and after graduation from high school began working at the Shell Oil Company to help support the family. She married George Beylerian in 1950, had two sons, and in 1962 moved with her family to Canada where many other Armenians were going to settle and create a new life. She worked at the Heyhoe Tea Company and later at the Hudson Bay Company, the oldest company in North America. In 1979, the family moved to California and became very involved in the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church in San Francisco. She worked at Computervision, loved to travel and had a wonderful sense of humor.

She is survived by her sons, Armen and Arlen and their wives, her granddaughters Amy and Emily, and her two brothers, Gary and Eddy.

A memorial service was held at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church on April 18. □

Arsene Ichkhanian, M.D.

Arsene Ichkhanian, M.D. went to be with the Lord on April 22, 2015. He was 84.



Dr. Ichkhanian was born in Beirut, Lebanon on February 26, 1931 to Elie and Arshalous Ichkhanian. He had a brother, Nerses, and a sister, Alice. He was the last surviving member of his family. At the age of 14, he lost his father.

While attending medical school, Arsene worked as a pharmaceutical sales representative and taught French in three different high schools. He graduated from the French Faculty of Medicine at the age of 24.

Arsene and Lydia were married on July 22, 1955. Arsene had his private practice as a dermatologist and worked at the Lebanese Military Hospital for 24 years as an internist and in the ER.

In addition to being a devoted family man, Arsene was very involved in the community in Beirut. For many years he served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of both the Armenian Evangelical Shamlian Tatigian High School and the Nor Marash Church. He collaborated with Reverend Djambazian in founding a dispensary that served thousands of community members. For over 34 years, he was a council member at the Municipality of Bourdj Hammoud representing the Armenian Evangelical community. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of Azounieh Hospital. He wanted pastors to have financial security after retirement. Working tirelessly and using his organizational skills and collaborating with others, he brought to fruition the Armenian Evangelical Ministers' Pension Fund. Arsene was also on the Central Committee of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East.

After he retired, Arsene and Lydia moved to Pasadena, CA to be with their children and grandchildren. They became members of the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church in Pasadena, CA.

Although his family mourns the loss of his kind company, they are comforted by the knowledge that he is with the Lord and is in a much better place.

Arsene is survived by his wife, Lydia, son Berj Ishkhanian, grandsons Andrew and Bryan, daughter Suzy Ouzounian and her daughters Michelle and Nicole, and son Paul Ishkhanian and his wife Maral. □

Rev. William Kalaidjian

Rev. William Kalaidjian passed away on January 16, 2015 at his Riverdale home in the Bronx, NY. He was 89. Born on December 17, 1925 in Nyack, NY, he was the son of Rev. Mihran Tatios Kalaidjian, the first Executive Secretary (1919-1921) of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, and Aimee Gillies Kalaidjian.



Rev. Kalaidjian attended Nyack High School, graduated from Adelphi College and the NY Theological Seminary. He was a proud U.S. Navy Veteran and a mounted Police Officer in Nyack, NY before becoming a Chaplain for the NY Police Department for 42 years, until his retirement in 1996. Throughout his tenure, Rev. Kalaidjian was responsible for the spiritual well-being of the police department and its police officers. From 1953-1996, Rev. Kalaidjian served as the Pastor of the Congregational Church of Bedford Park in the Bronx, NY. He was a loving and caring person, serving the people with his passion.

Rev. Kalaidjian was greatly involved in other organizations. He was a founding member and the Executive Director of the New York State Shields; President of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; a Chaplain for the Bronx Veterans Hospital, and a volunteer Chaplain for the Veterans Administration. He served as the President of the Bronx Rotary Club from 1987 to 1988. Rev. Kalaidjian also served from 1955 until his retirement as Executive Secretary on the Armenian Association to Aid the Armenian National Sanatorium of Azounieh, Lebanon, an institution which was founded in 1923 and jointly owned and managed by the Armenian Evangelical and Apostolic Churches in Lebanon. Prior to that, his father, Rev. Mihran Kalaidjian was the Executive Secretary of the Association since its founding in 1923 until 1955. From July – December 2012, Rev. Kalaidjian also served the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York as guest preacher.

Rev. Kalaidjian was preceded in death by his brother Robert Eaton Kalaidjian. He is survived

by his wife Valerie Kalaidjian, three sons, William G. Kalaidjian Jr. and wife Debra, David Edward Kalaidjian and Stephen Bryan Kalaidjian and wife April, five grandchildren and one great grandchild, brother Edward Kalaidjian and sisters Ruth Kalaidjian Davis and Marjorie Kalaidjian Gottwik. He was a cherished uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Rev. Kalaidjian's wake was held on January 21 at the Williams Funeral Home, and the funeral services were held on January 22 at St. Philip Neri Church, followed by the interment service at Woodlawn Cemetery. □

Alice Kalousdian

Alice Gertmenian Kalousdian of Pasadena, CA passed peacefully in her sleep in her home on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015. She was 96.

Born in Aleppo, Syria on August 19, 1919, Alice's family were refugees there having been driven from their ancestral home in Hadjin, Turkey during the Genocide of 1915. A few months after her birth her father was killed in the siege of Hadjin leaving her mother a widow with seven children. The family eventually emigrated to the United States in 1923 following her older brothers, Sebouh, Manuel, and Gary Gertmenian, to Pasadena.

Alice was educated in the Pasadena school system and then attended Queens College in Charlotte, NC. After returning to Pasadena, she met Sooren Kalousdian, whom she married in 1942. They celebrated their 70th anniversary in 2012, shortly before Sooren passed away. Alice and Sooren had four children – David, Paul, Ruth, and Mark.

Her family and her Armenian heritage were of utmost importance to Alice. She passed those values on to her children and to her grandsons Jamie and Jeff, and later to their families. Despite being so geographically dispersed, the family frequently got together. Thanksgiving and birthdays were paramount. The gatherings were multi-generational: David and his wife Sarah; Jamie and Marianne and their children Rachael, Holly and Aidan; daughter-in-law Judie. She delighted in the most recent additions – Jeff's daughter, Sanahin Alice, and his wife Maria, as well as Maria's older daughters Maria, Seda and Sasha. She welcomed into the family Paul's stepdaughter Therease and her sons Kevin and Miles.

When the family visited Pasadena, Sunday attendance at the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church swelled. Alice was eternally devoted to her church, as were her mother and grandparents before her, a legacy now being carried on by her children.

Alice lived a full and happy life. Alice's absence will be felt by her family, by her friends, neighbors, church community, sisters in the Daughters of Vartan, and countless others. □



Nouvar Kassouni Djaferis Panayotides

Nouvar Kassouni Djaferis Panayotides went to be with the Lord on March 2, 2015, two months short of her 92nd birthday, which was to be celebrated by a wide circle of family and friends on May 19. She was the first of four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Kassouni. Her mother was a teacher at the American Academy in Larnaca. Her siblings were Sarkis Kassouni (deceased) of Greenville, MI, Agnes Kassouni Scribner of Willow Street, PA, and Rev. Vartkes Kassouni of Orange, CA.

With Nouvar's passing, Cyprus has lost a dear and highly regarded leader of the Armenian and Evangelical Greek community. She was educated in the American Academy in Larnaca. Her college education was in Beirut, Lebanon at the British Syrian Training College. In 1949 she married Hercules Panayotides-Djaferis (who went to be with the Lord in 2001), son of the Rev. and Mrs. Theodore Panayotides-Djaferis.

Nouvar was a teacher in a number of educational institutions in Nicosia. She was very involved with singing and music. She also organized an Armenian Community Choir which performed on the radio and in community concerts.

Her deep faith continued to be paramount in all her endeavors. With her husband they organized the Evangelical Community Church in Nicosia, and were active in the Greek and Armenian Evangelical Churches, in both Larnaca and Nicosia.

While her husband was still living, she travelled extensively in Europe with him, and was a great "ambassador" for Cyprus and Armenia. A major highlight of her travels was when, well into her 80s, she travelled to Armenia for the first and only time. She was captivated by that experience and said that if she were younger she would want to even live there!

After a fall in October 2014 she was confined to her bed, and never recovered. She passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones. She is survived by her brother, sister, three sons, their spouses, six grandchildren and one great granddaughter. A friend has said about her, "She was an outstanding lady, a friend and mother to many, a shining light." That light, which she had received from her Lord, Jesus Christ, has not gone out. It has been passed on to her family and community. "Blessed are they who die in the Lord..."

Funeral services were held on March 7 at the Greek Evangelical Church, Larnaca, Cyprus, with the Pastor and her son, Rev. Hercules Panayotides Jr. officiating. □



Rev. Barkev Orchanian

Rev. Barkev Orchanian of Watertown, MA passed away on March 7, 2015. He was 100. Born in Marash, Turkey in 1914, he was the oldest of ten children. In 1923 the family was forced to move to Aleppo, Syria, where he attended Bethel School.



From an early age he worked in his father's textile business to help support the family, as well as to attend school in his spare time. His thirst for knowledge led him to buy and rent books to read during his business trips. Those books led him into politics and atheism. But his hunger for truth convinced him to sever his ties with his old friends and turned to Christ as his Lord.

He attended the Theological School in Shimlan, Lebanon and married Arousiag Sabounjian. After graduation he served as the Minister of the School for the Blind in Ghazir, Lebanon. Later he moved to Beirut, where he became a youth leader. Eventually he was offered to lead the newly formed church in Kamishly, Syria. The church was composed of six families. Rev. Orchanian's enthusiasm, sincerity and compassion for his flock, and his powerful speaking talent, helped the church grow beyond expectations.

He was sent to pastor churches in Istanbul, Turkey several times. Later he was reassigned to a church in Homs, Syria and preached in nearby cities such as Latakiah and Banias.

Rev. Orchanian's faith was severely tried when he lost his newly ordained 29 year old son Norayr. He decided to move to the United States in 1979 where God presented him with new opportunities to preach the Gospel. He served the Armenian Evangelical community in the United States and in Canada. At the age of 73, he learned how to use the computer and wrote dozens of tracts and mailed them to Armenian churches all over the world. He published more than 12 books. "Jesus in the Old Testament" was republished and accepted into the archives of the national library in Armenia, the Madenatran.

Rev. Orchanian wrote numerous articles in periodicals and newspapers.

We can be rest assured that as Rev. Orchanian met his savior face to face, he was greeted by Him saying "Well done thou good and faithful servant." □

The AMAA Board of Directors and the staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends.

- * **Thomas Boghosian**
Queensbury, NY
- * **Leo Darian**
Colonie, NY
- * **Zohrab Heghinian**
Clifton Park, NY
- * **Rose Koundakjian**
Watertown, MA
- * **Makarditch Maybalian**
Fairview, NJ
- * *Memorials designated for AMAA*



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Summer is Here. . .

and thousands of children in **Armenia and Karabagh** are eagerly waiting for the first day of camp. These camps not only enrich the children's lives spiritually and physically, but provide them relief from hot summers with a week in the country.

Unfortunately, many children might miss the opportunity without your help.

A \$70 contribution will help one more child to be able to attend an overnight camp this summer and \$40 will help one more child to attend a day camp for a week.



The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) operates two overnight camps in **Armenia and Karabagh - Hankavan and Shushi**, and 46 day camps in other areas in the homeland. Campers come from impoverished families and the AMAA cannot charge them any fees. That is why we rely on your assistance.

Please help us bring more children to camp this year. Be as generous as you can. The children will never forget your love and the positive impact your gift will make on their young lives.



Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ for:

YES!

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I will help children
in Armenia & Karabagh
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Please make your tax deductible donations to AMAA earmarked for Armenia Summer Camps and mail to 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.
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